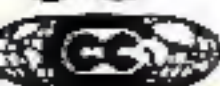


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JUNE
02199

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN



AS IF SPIDEY DIDN'T
HAVE ENOUGH
TROUBLE ALREADY...

**NITRO'S
BACK!**



While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter gained the arachnid's powers... and in effect, became a human spider...

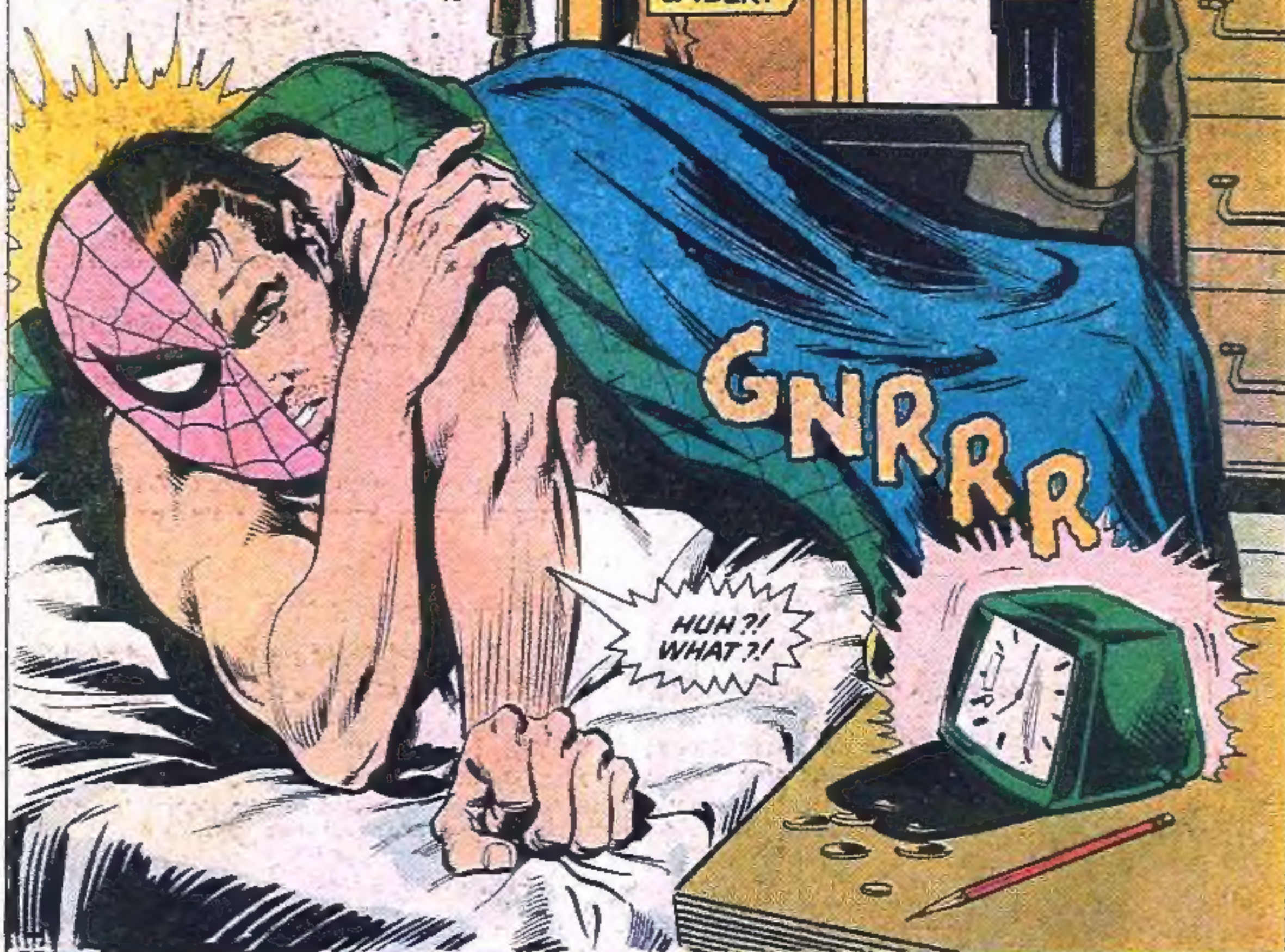
STAR LINE PRESENTS: **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!**

The
**BIG
BLOW
OUT**

DESPITE WHAT EARLY
RISERS TELL YOU, SEVEN
O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING
IS NOT A PLEASANT
TIME TO WAKE UP...
ESPECIALLY FOR A
FELLOW LIKE PETER PARKER!

MAYBE IT WOULDN'T BE
SO BAD IF PETE WERE
JUST A GRADUATE STUDENT.
BUT IT SO HAPPENS THAT
HE'S ALSO A TEACHING
ASSISTANT, A PART-TIME
PHOTOGRAPHER FOR THE
DAILY BUGLE, AND--
OH, YES-- SPIDER-MAN!

AND LEADING FOUR LIVES CAN BE
TIRING, EVEN FOR A MAN WITH THE
PROPORTIONATE POWERS OF A
SPIDER!



ROGER STERN
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INKER

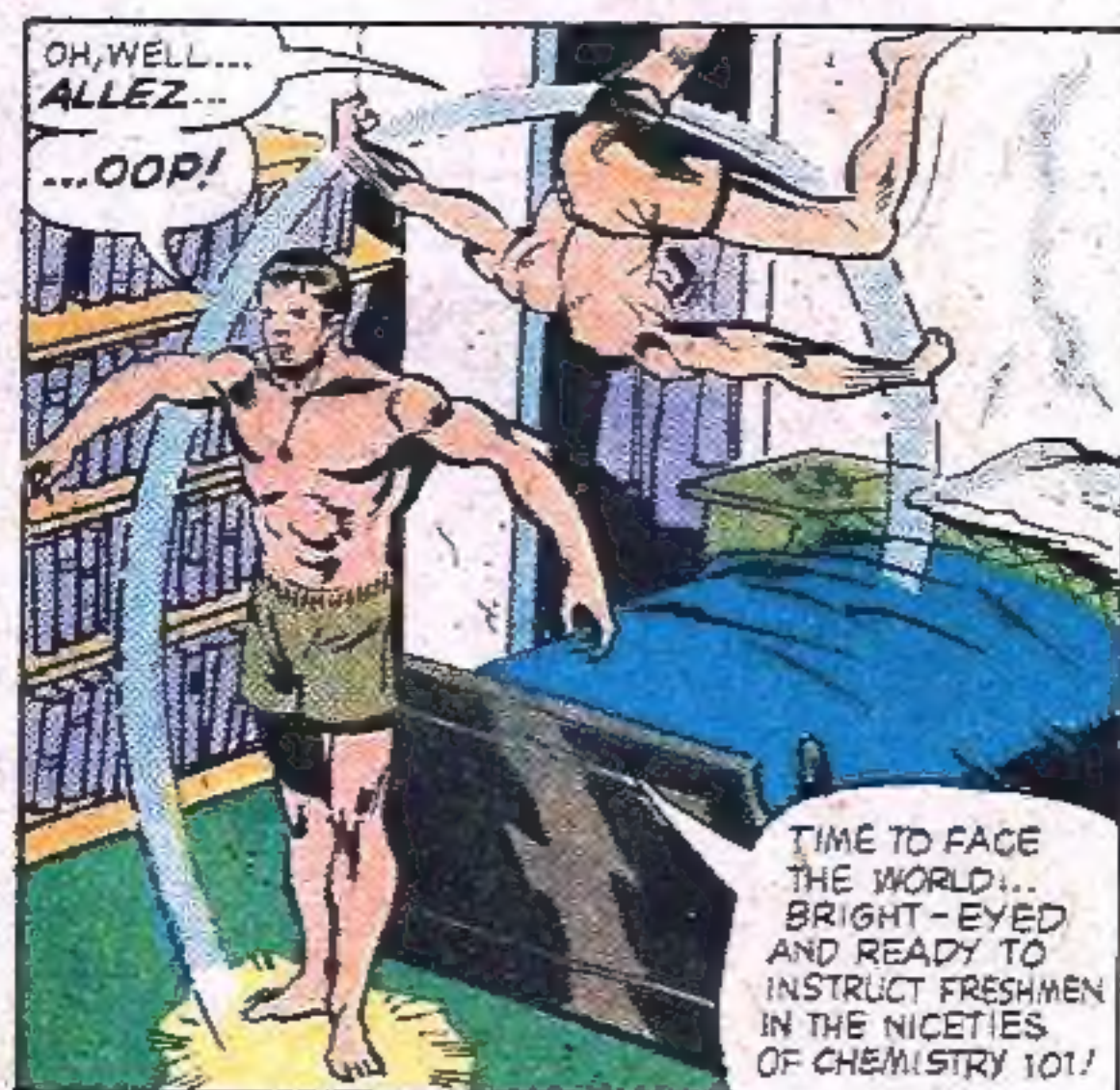
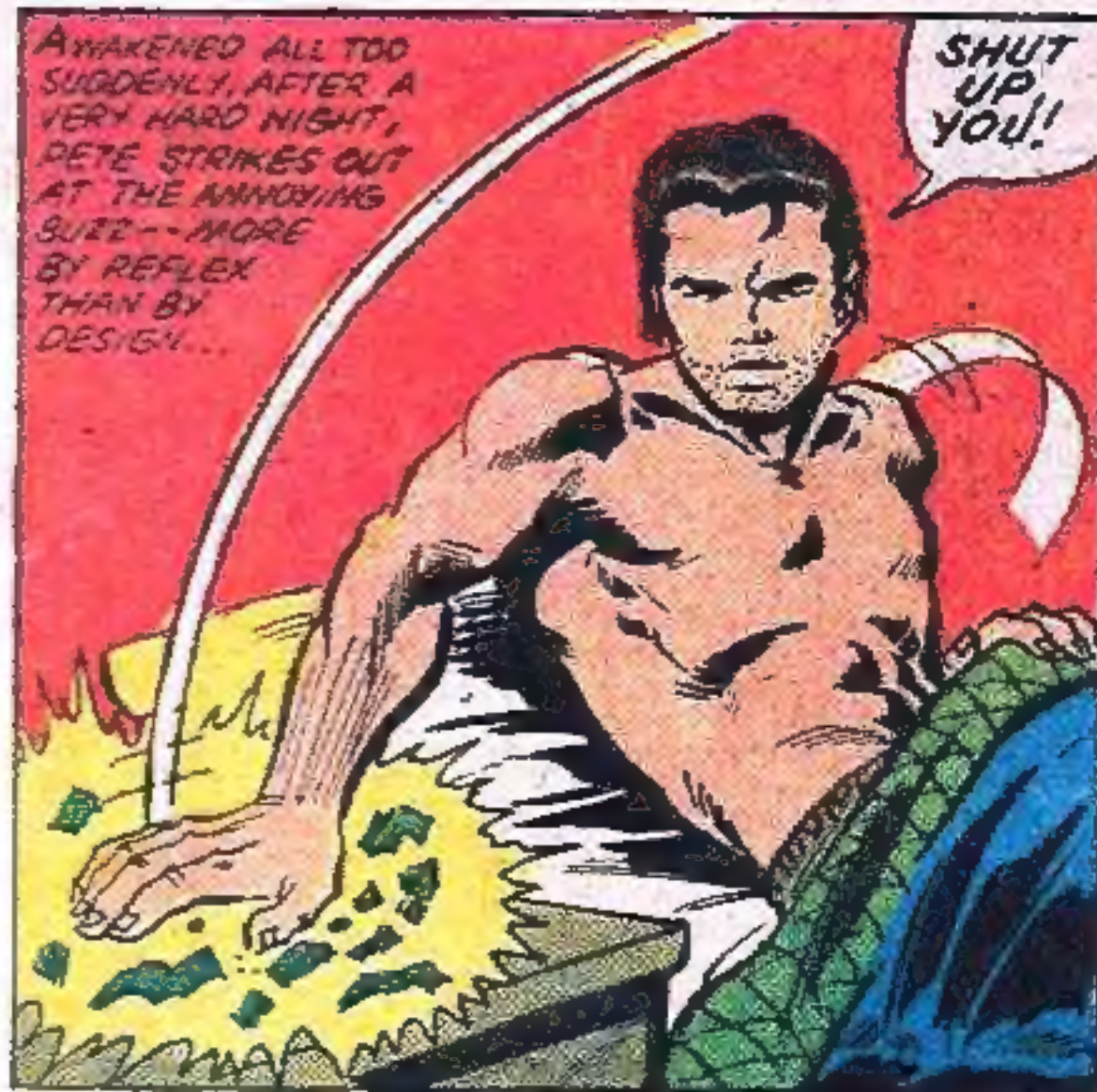
JOHN MORELLI
LETTERER

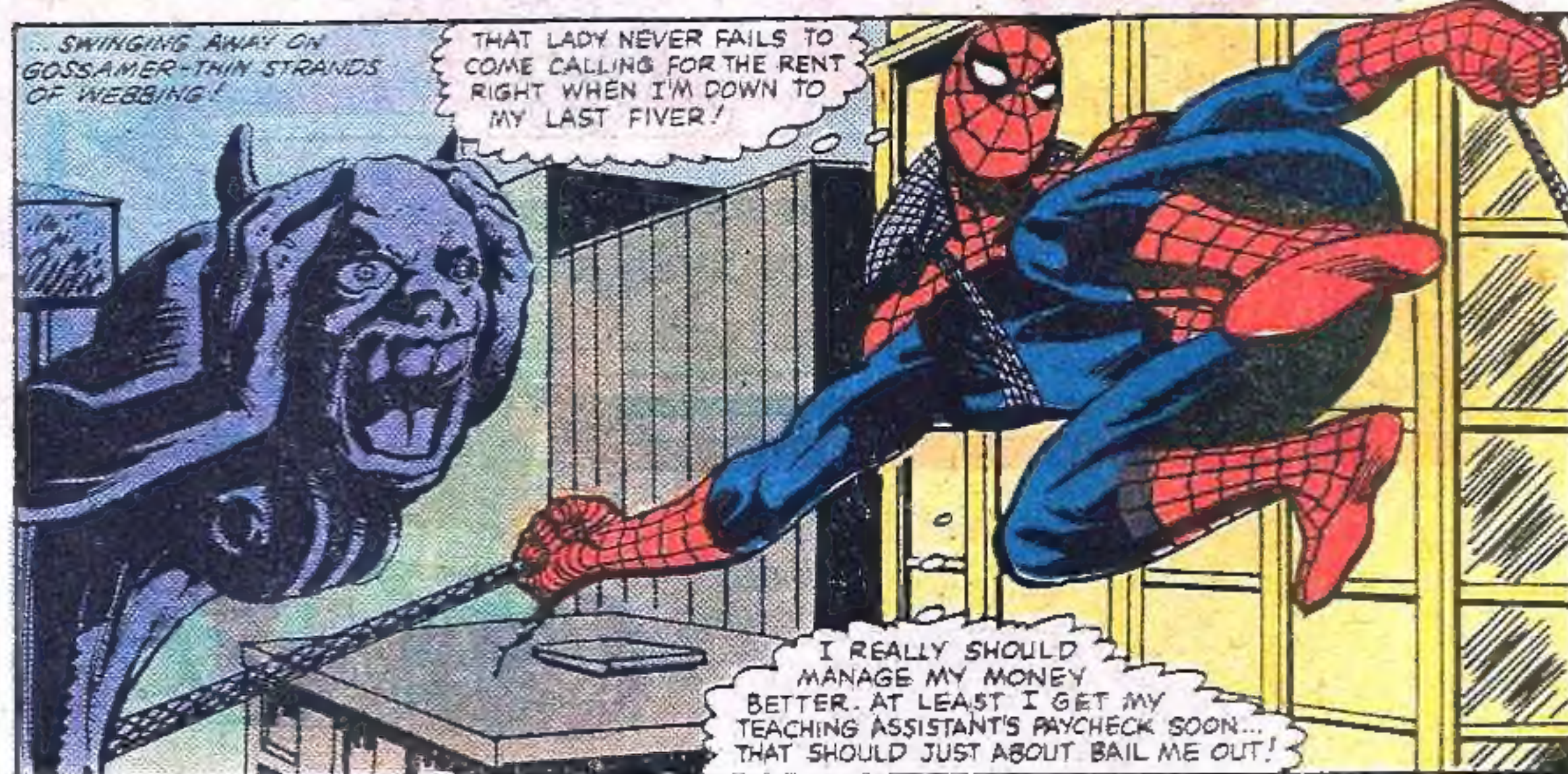
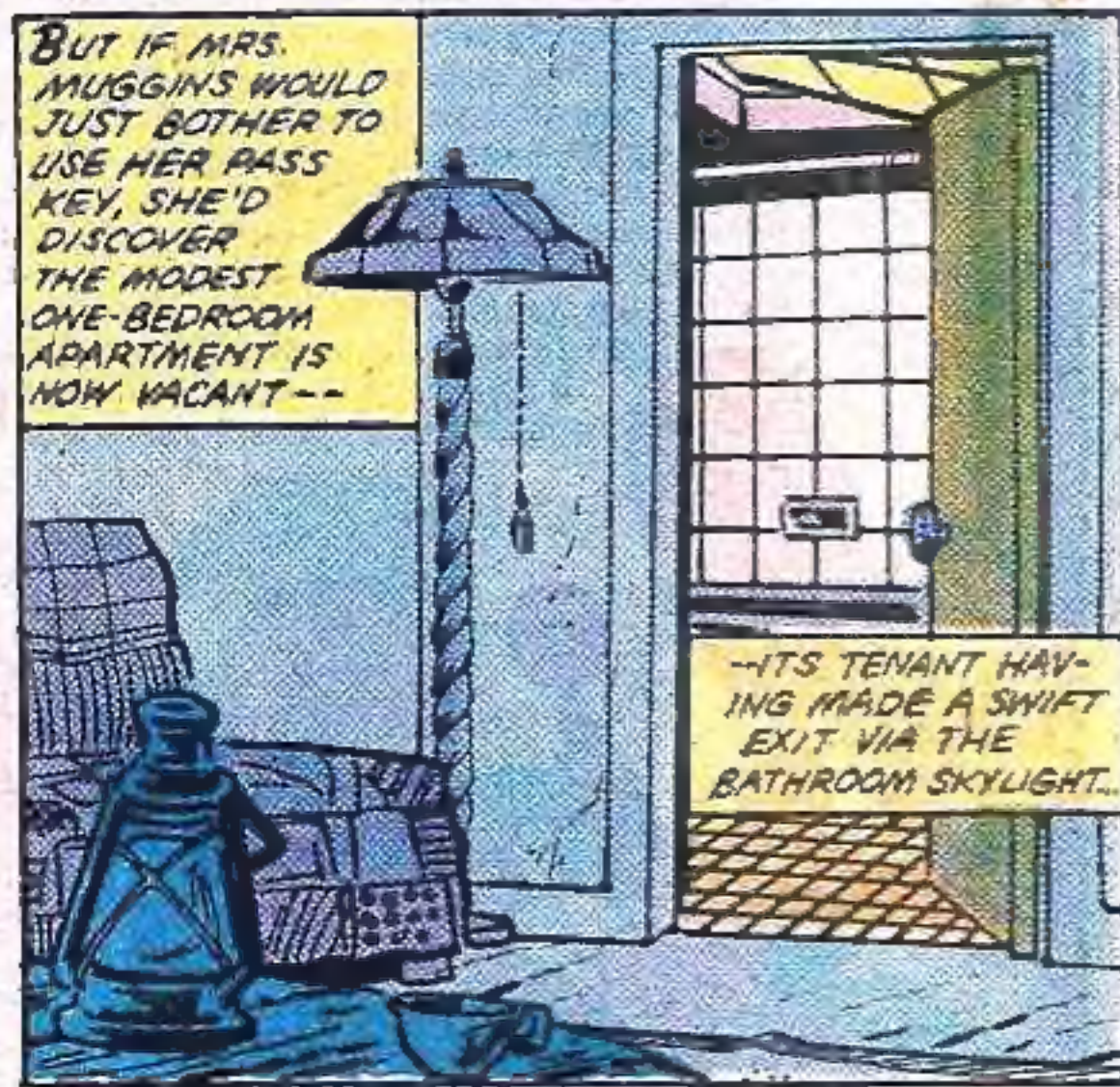
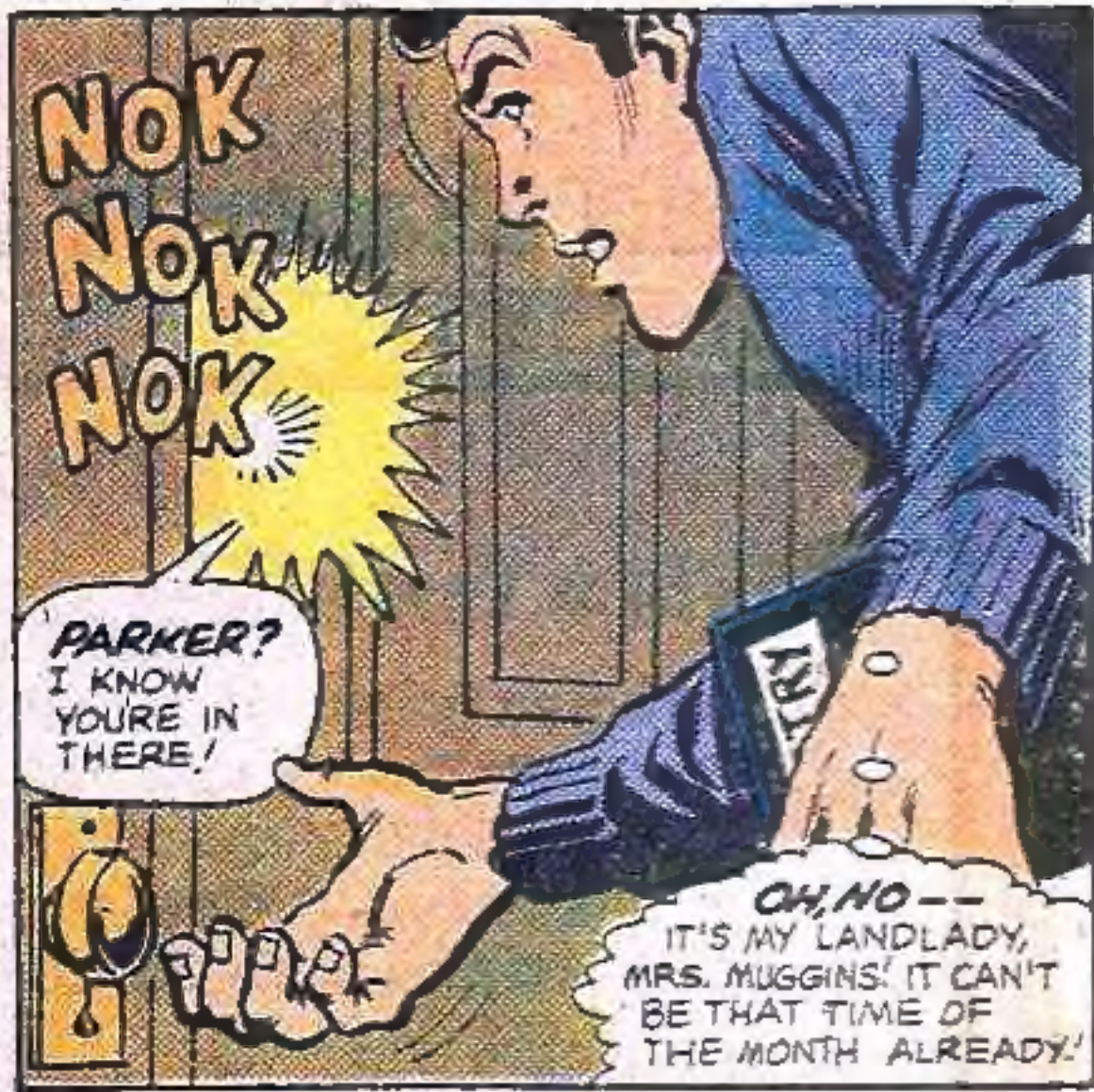
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JIM SHOOTER
WAKE-UP CALLS

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YEAH... FOR THIS MONTH! BUT WHAT WITH THAT FIRE WE HAD A FEW WEEKS AGO,* I'M AFRAID THAT A RENT INCREASE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

--AND NOW IT MUST BE A SURE THING! AFTER ALL THE DAMAGE AND REPAIRS... AND THE INSURANCE COMPANY PUTTING US UP IN THE **PLAZA** OF ALL PLACES...

BUT AN INCREASE WOULD PUT QUITE A STRAIN ON MY BANK BOOK!

MAYBE I COULD TALK JONAH JAMESON INTO RAISING MY PHOTO RATE!

THERE WAS TALK OF A RENT HIKE BEFORE THE FIRE--

...THE MUGGINS' INSURANCE RATES MUST BE GOING THROUGH THE CEILING! I WOULDN'T BLAME THEM FOR UPPING THE RENT!

*AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #214.--DENNY.

SURE! AND MAYBE COWS WILL LEARN TO FLY! IT'S EASIER TO GET BLOOD FROM A STONE, THAN TO PRY MONEY OUT OF THE **BUGLE'S** PENNY-PINCHING PUBLISHER!

I SUPPOSE I COULD CHECK WITH DR SLOAN ABOUT GETTING A RAISE IN MY T.A. SALARY FOR NEXT TERM.

BUT, THIS MORNING, I HAVE SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN MONEY TO WORRY ABOUT!

DEBORAH WHITMAN WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO PATCH ME UP THE OTHER DAY, AND THEN I RAN OFF TO PLAY SPIDER-MAN WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A "BUY YOUR LEAVE!"

AND WHEN I DROPPED BY HER PLACE LATER...

*AMAZ. SPIDER-MAN #215.--D.

SHE WAS ENTERTAINING SOME HOMETOWN PREPPIE FRIEND.*

I FEEL LIKE SUCH A JERK! I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE TO HER YESTERDAY--

STAIR

--BUT SHE CALLED IN SICK.* I HOPE SHE'S IN TODAY. I REALLY NEED TO TALK TO HER. I GET THE DISTINCT FEELING DEB'S HAD SOME BIG HURTS IN HER LIFE--

--AND I'D HATE TO THINK THAT I'VE ADDED TO THEM!

DEPARTMENT
OF
BIO-PHYSICS

*LAST ISSUE.--D.

*AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #216.--D.



AN, SHE'S BACK! GREAT!
HI, DEB!
FEELING
BETTER?

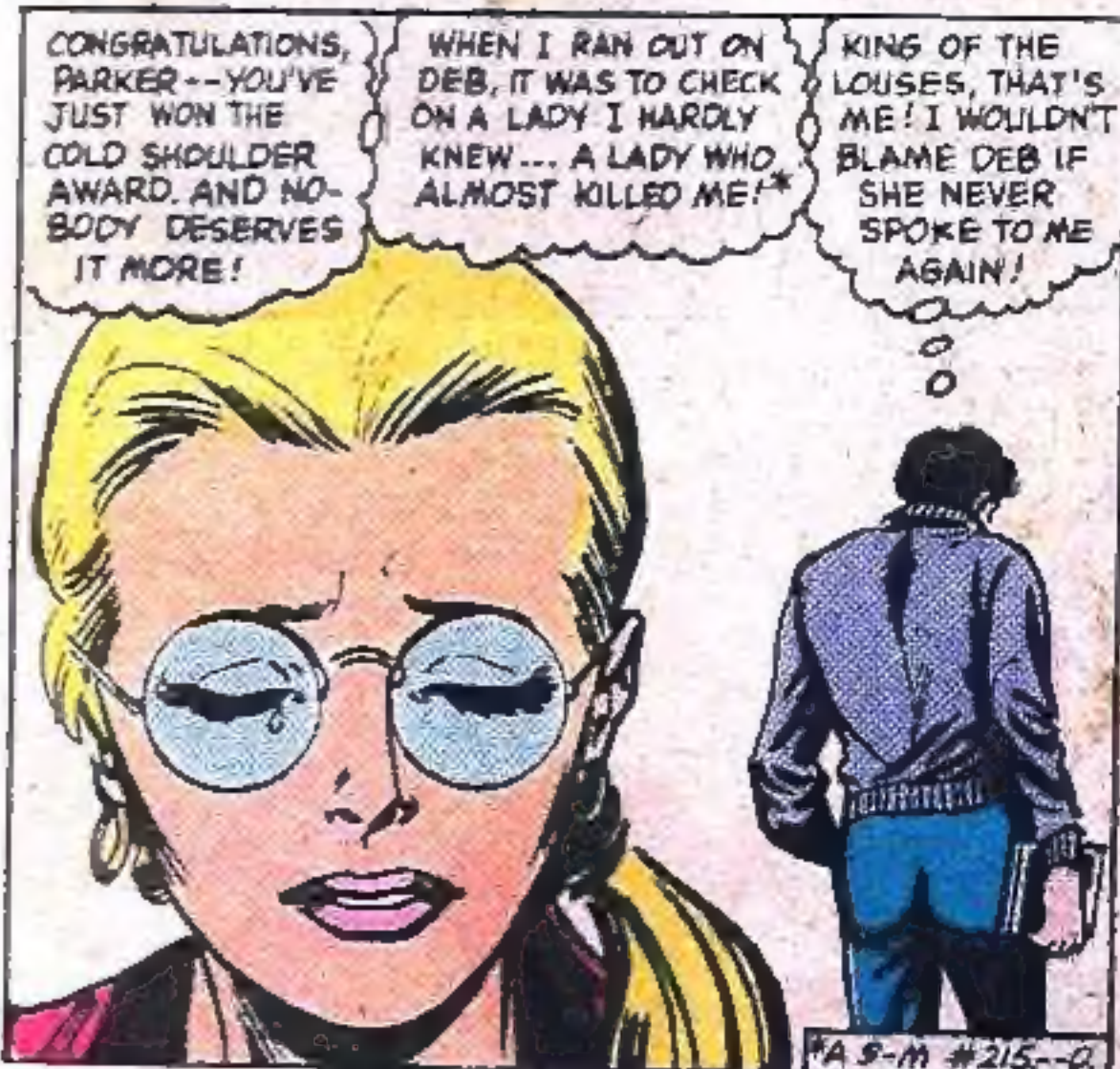
WHAT? OH...HELLO, PETER.
YES, THANK YOU. IT WAS...
NOTHING SERIOUS.



I JUST WANTED TO SAY
I'M SORRY. I ACTED
LIKE A --!

THAT'S ALL
RIGHT, PETER.
I'M SURE YOU
HAD YOUR
REASONS.

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE
ME-- I HAVE A LOT OF
REPORTS TO TYPE.



CONGRATULATIONS,
PARKER--YOU'VE
JUST WON THE
COLD SHOULDER
AWARD. AND NO-
BODY DESERVES
IT MORE!

WHEN I RAN OUT ON
DEB, IT WAS TO CHECK
ON A LADY I HARDLY
KNEW... A LADY WHO
ALMOST KILLED ME!*

KING OF THE
LOUSES, THAT'S
ME! I WOULDN'T
BLAME DEB IF
SHE NEVER
SPOKE TO ME
AGAIN!

PA S-M #215--Q



I WISH A TEN TON
WEIGHT WOULD
FALL ON ME!

EH?
MARCY?

ONE SIDE,
PARKER!

IS THIS
SOME NEW
FASHION,
OR HAVE
YOU JOINED
THE ROYAL
SCOTS GUARD?

"HAH--
HAH"--
VERY
FUNNY!



SEE, PETE--IT'S LIKE I TOLD YOU,
MARCY WEARS SOME DIFFERENT
KIND OF HEADGEAR EVERY DAY.

UH-HUH.
YOU
GOING
TO ADD
THE
"TAM-O-
SHANTER"
TO YOUR
TALLY
SHEET,
STEVE?



I'M GONNA DO MORE THAN THAT!
I THINK IT'S TIME FOR YOURS
TRULY, STEVE HOPKINS, TO ENGAGE
IN A LITTLE COVERT ACTIVITY...
JUST TO SATISFY MY CURIOSITY!

HEY, PETE...
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'
HERE SO EARLY
ON A THURSDAY?

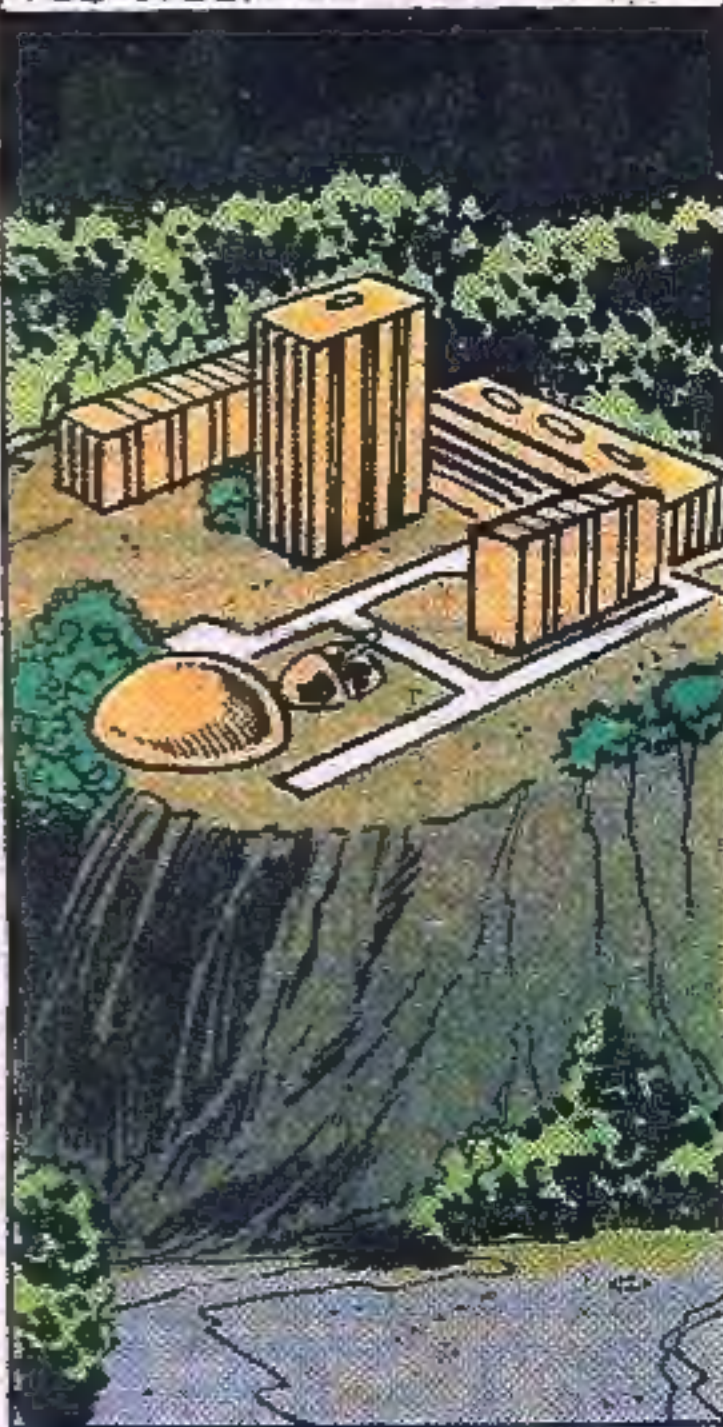
THURSDAY?! THIS IS THURSDAY?! OH, NO! I DON'T HAVE ANY CLASSES TODAY UNTIL NOON!

CONGRATS, M'AN... YOU'VE DONE YOURSELF IN! BUT DON'T TAKE IT TOO HARD!

THIS IS PAYDAY!



AND, AS PETE CONTEMPLATES THREE HOURS OF LOST, BLISSFUL SLEEP...



...ABOUT A HUNDRED MILES TO THE NORTH, AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FACILITY KNOWN AS PROJECT PEGASUS--

--TWO EARLY MORNING VISITORS ARE CAUSING A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF CONSTERNATION!

MR. BALE... MS. HUNTER... Y-YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!

WE'RE VERY SERIOUS, DR. WILBURN! AS MS. HUNTER'S ATTORNEY--



--I'M TELLING YOU THAT YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO HOLD HER FATHER AGAINST HIS WILL!

MR. BALE, MR. HUNTER IS AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS INDIVIDUAL. THE PROJECT OBTAINED CUSTODY OF HIM FROM FEDERAL AUTHORITIES ONLY AFTER CONSIDERABLE STRENGTHENING OF OUR SECURITY SYSTEMS--!

I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN, SIR-- AND I'M WELL AWARE OF THE NUMBER OF CHARGES AGAINST MR. HUNTER. HOWEVER, THE FACT REMAINS--



--THAT THE MAN IS YET TO HAVE HIS DAY IN COURT!

YOU CAN'T KEEP HIM HERE TO USE AS A GUINEA PIG FOR YOUR ENERGY EXPERIMENTS! NOT WITHOUT DUE PROCESS OF THE LAW OR HIS CONSENT!



I HAVE A WRIT HERE WHICH DEMANDS YOU TURN HIM OVER TO HIS DAUGHTER'S CUSTODY!

VERY WELL, BALE-- YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE IN THIS MATTER!

HELLO, COMPOUND? THIS IS DR. WILBURN AT SURFACE LEVEL ONE. BRING UP SUBJECT "N".



IT WON'T BE LONG NOW, VIRGINIA. YOU'LL SOON HAVE YOUR FATHER BACK.

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU, EMERSON!

SAVE THE THANKS UNTIL YOU SEE MY BILL!



DR. WILBURN'S WORDS ARE ABRUPTLY CUT OFF, AS THE PURPLE-CLAD MAN SUDDENLY EXPLODES WITH NIGHT-MARISH FORCE!

WAH-BOOM

WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS, ALL THAT REMAINS IN THE RUBBLE-STREWN ROOM IS A SMALL, STEAMING CRATER...

--AND THE UNCONSCIOUS FORMS OF VIRGINIA HUNTER, EMERSON BALE, AND TWO OTHERS SEEMINGLY CARRIED OUT OF HARM'S WAY BY THE SHOCKWAVE!

AND THEN, THE VAPORS BEGIN TO CONGEAL ONCE MORE, TWISTING AND COMPACTING INTO HUMAN-OID FORM...

...THE FORM OF ROBERT HUNTER, THE BEING ALSO KNOWN AS NITRO, THE EXPLODING MAN!



BREEOOEOE

EH? I MUSTA TRIPPED SOME SECURITY ALARM!

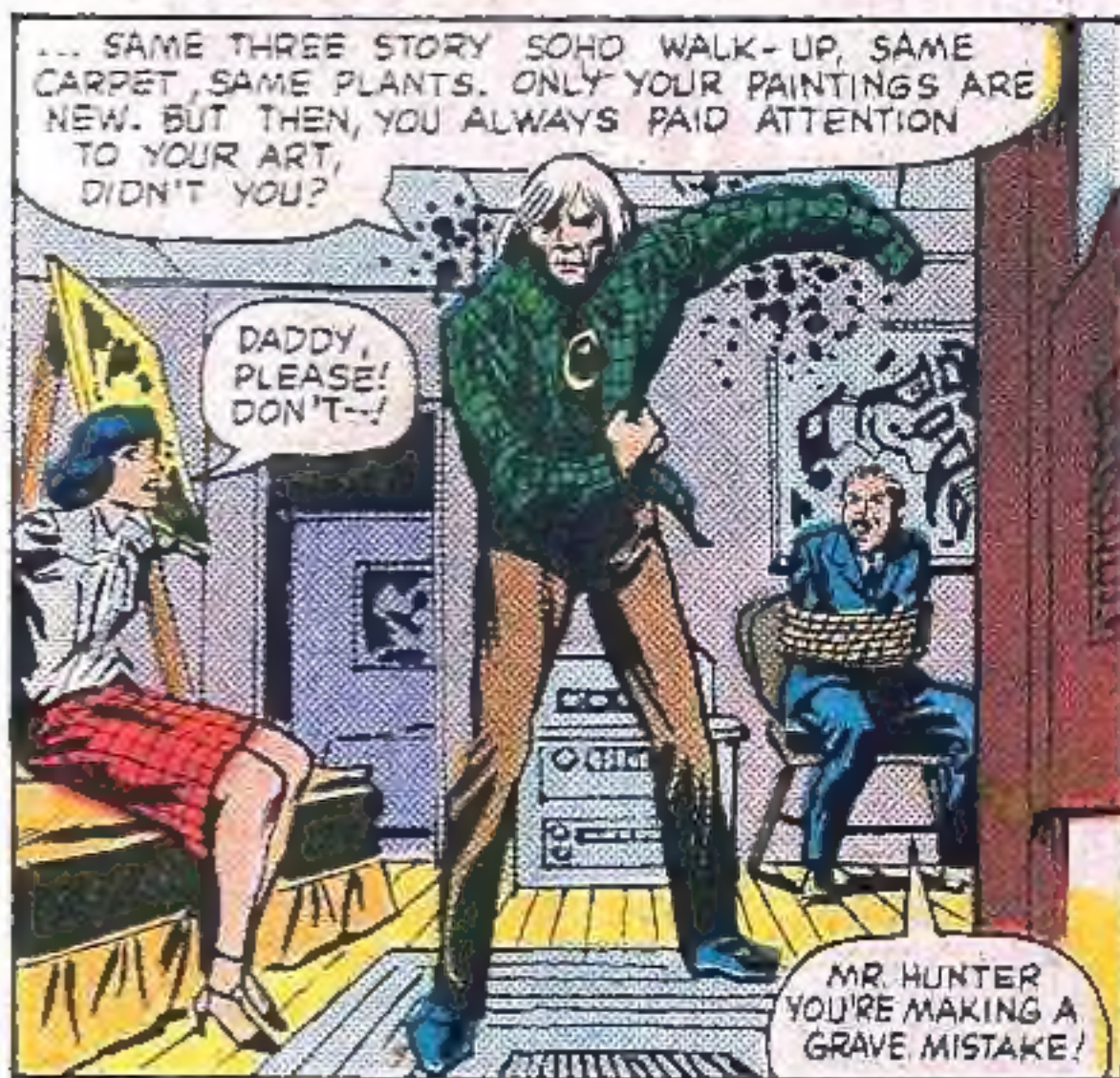
I'D STAY TO FLATTEN THIS PLACE, BUT I'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO!

MY BLOW-OUT RIPPED A HOLE IN THE WALL!

I'LL JUST SCOOP UP VIRGIE AND HER LAWYER AND GET OUTTA HERE!

THERE'S VIRGIE'S CAR... SHE'S STILL DRIVING THAT THREE YEAR OLD COMPACT!

A GOOD ARTIST LIKE HER OUTTA BE ABLE TO AFFORD SOMETHIN' BETTER. I HOPE THAT THING'S GOT DECENT PICK-UP!



ALL MY LIFE I WAS STEPPED ON, SHOVED AROUND BY DOZENS OF STRAW BOSSES...FORCED INTO RETIREMENT! THEN THE LUNATIC LEGION OFFERED ME POWER!

BUT YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE ME, DID YA? DON'T BELIEVE YOUR OLD MAN WHEN HE TOLD YA HE HEARD VOICES FROM SPACE!

BUT THOSE VOICES WERE **REAL**! THEY TURNED ME INTO NITRO--I WAS THE R DEADLIEST AGENT ON EARTH.* AN' NOW, ALL I WANT TO DO IS GET RE- VENGGE ON CAPTAIN MARVEL!

DADDY! Y-YOU'RE HURTING ME!

I'LL EASE UP IF YOU TELL ME WHERE TO FIND CAPTAIN MARVEL!

*CAPTAIN MARVEL #34.

B-BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS, YOU KNOW I DON'T FOLLOW THE NEWS!

DENVER!

HUH?

CAPTAIN MARVEL WAS RECENTLY IN NEW YORK*, BUT ACCORDING TO LAST NIGHT'S NEWS, HE HAD RETURNED TO DENVER!

*MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #12--D.

THANKS SALE - YOU'VE JUST FIED YOUR EXISTENCE FOR NOW!

C'MON, LITTLE GIRL!

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

FIRST, WE'RE GONNA GO TO YOUR BANK AND WITHDRAW SOME TRAVELIN' MONEY--

--AND THEN, WE'RE OFF TO DENVER.

SLAM

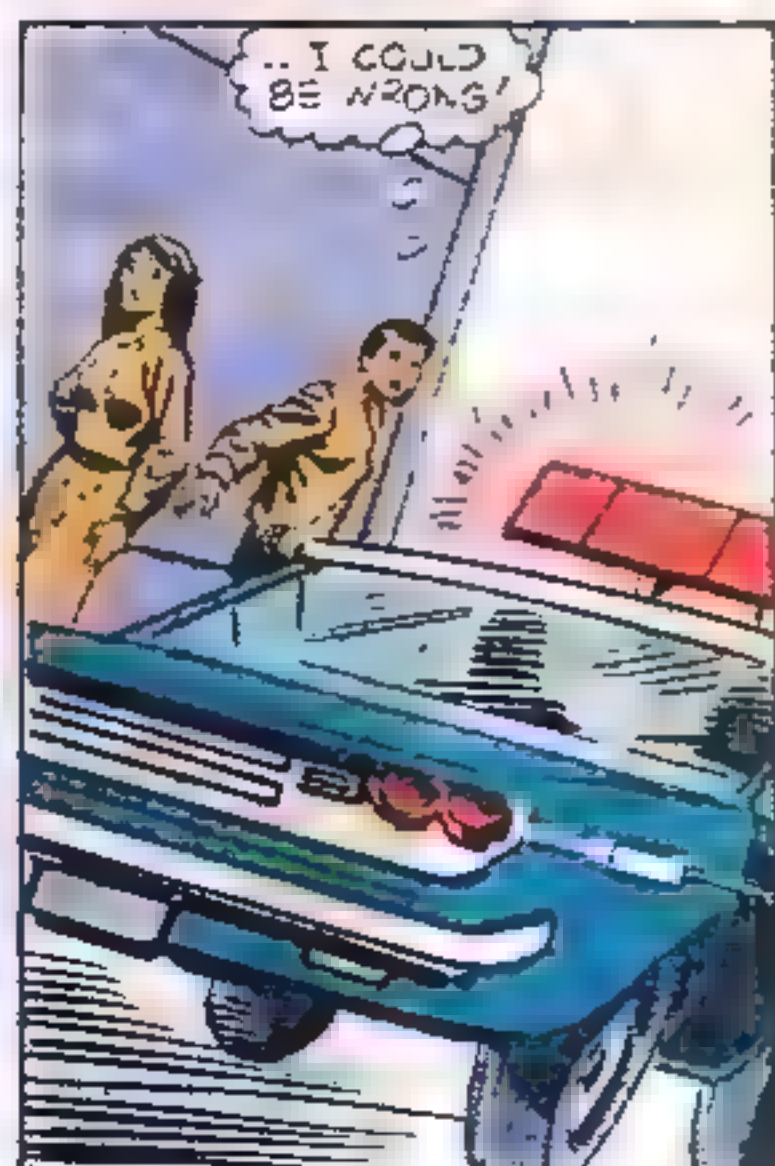
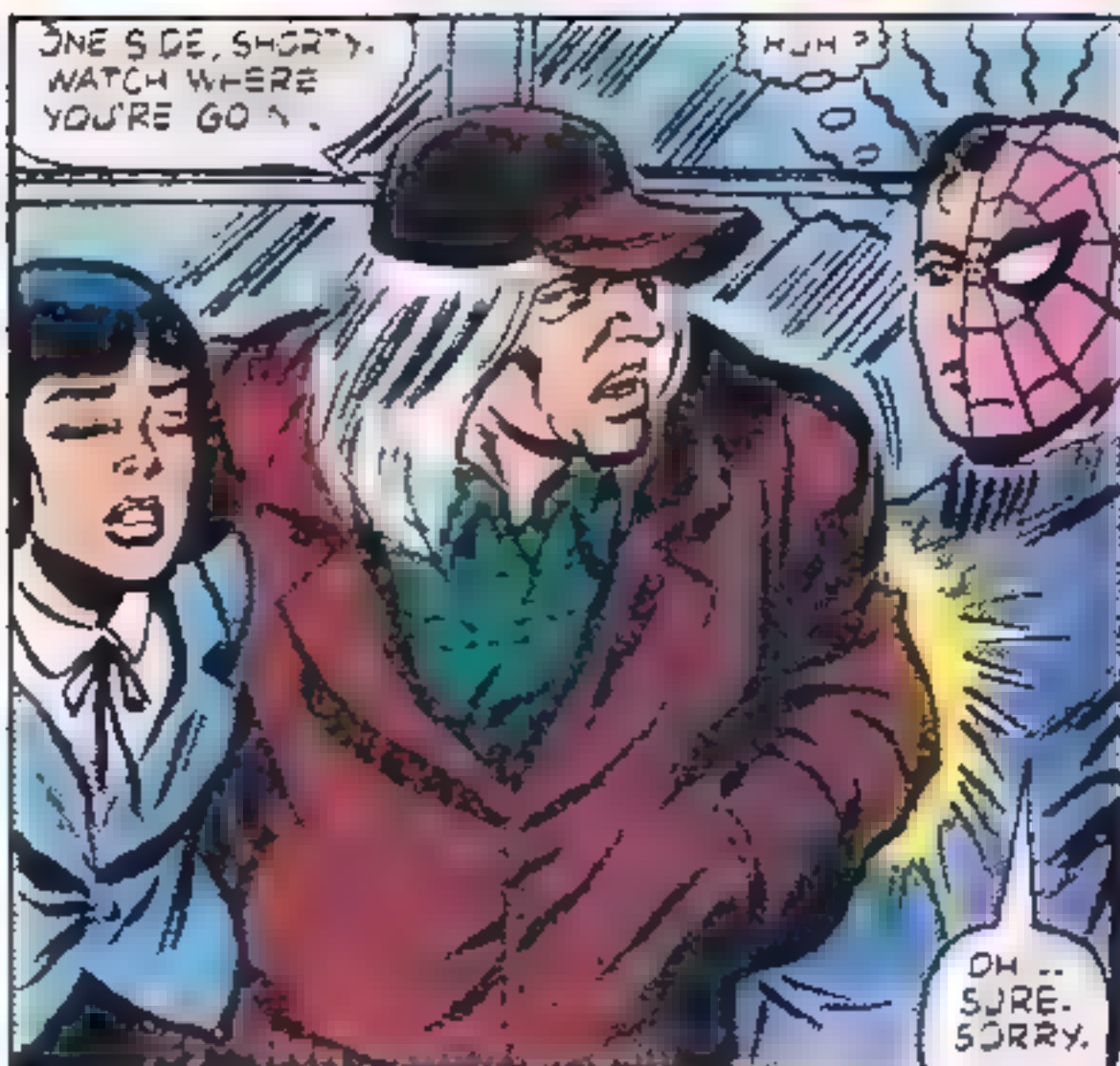
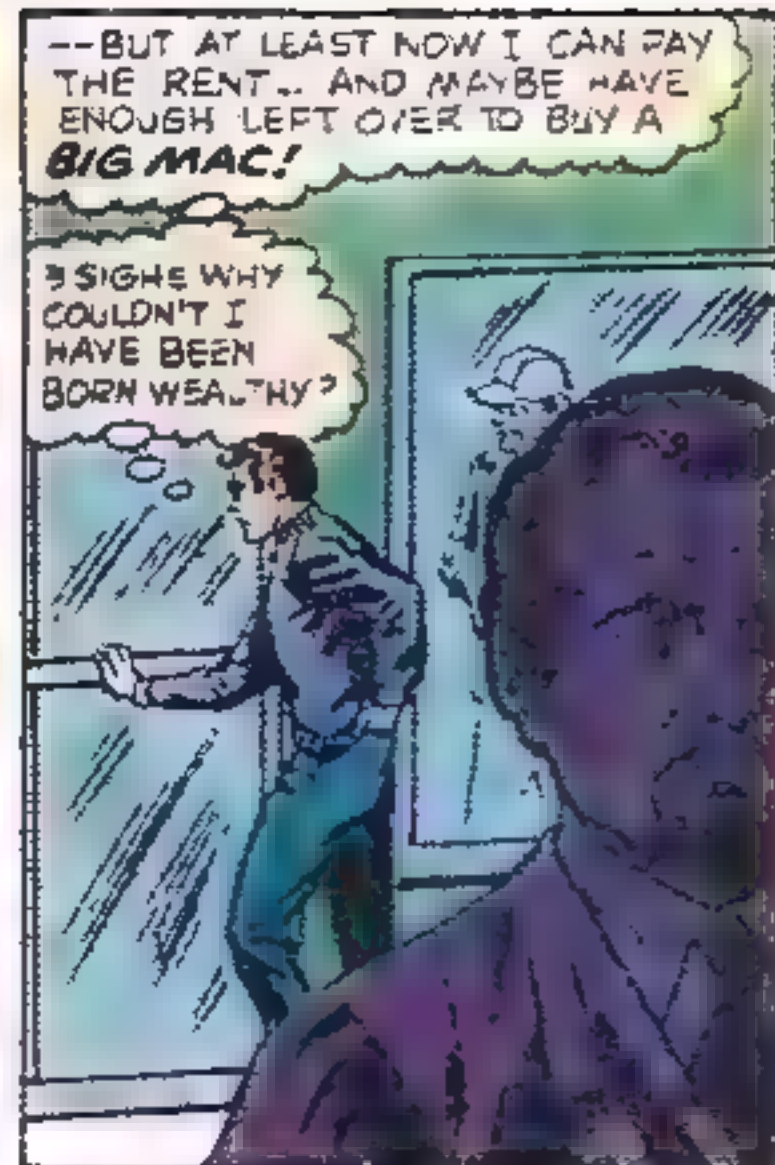
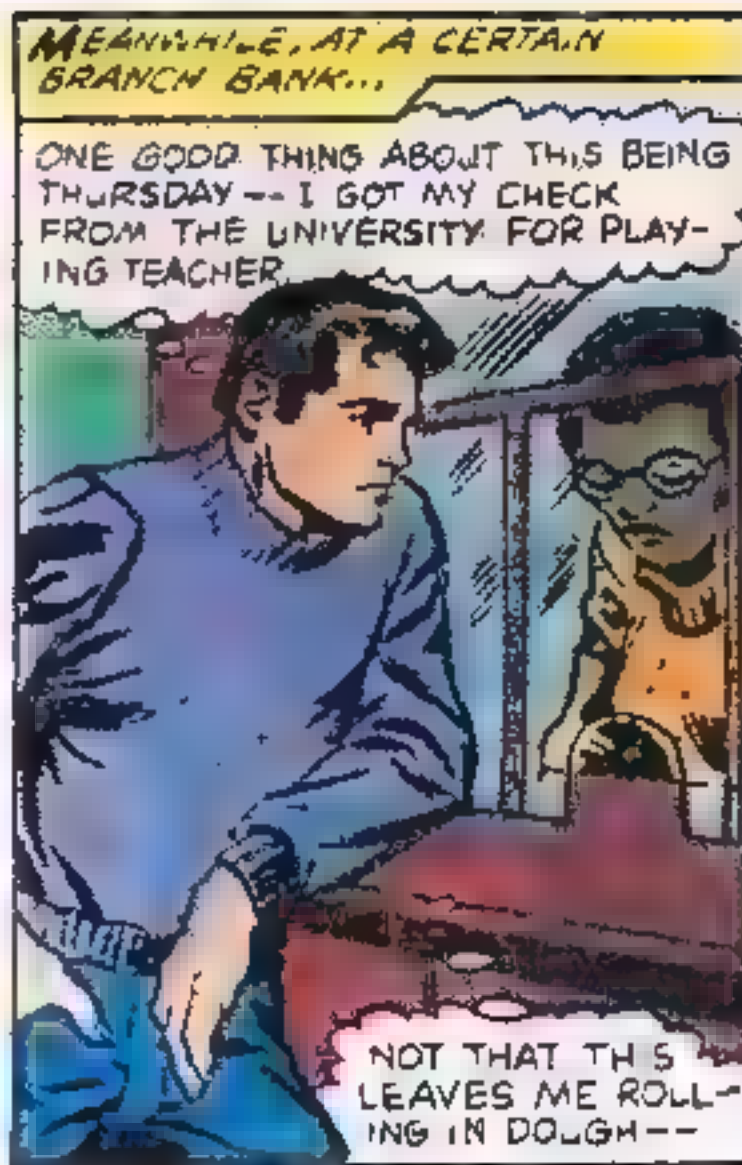
WE SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO DR WILBURN. HE'S MORE DANGEROUS THAN I WOULD HAVE EVER IMAGINED!

AND I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTING HIM FREE! HE MUST BE STOPPED!

HOBBLING TO THE TABLE, THE DESPERATE LAWYER KNOCKS THE TELEPHONE HANGSET FREE, AND THEN...

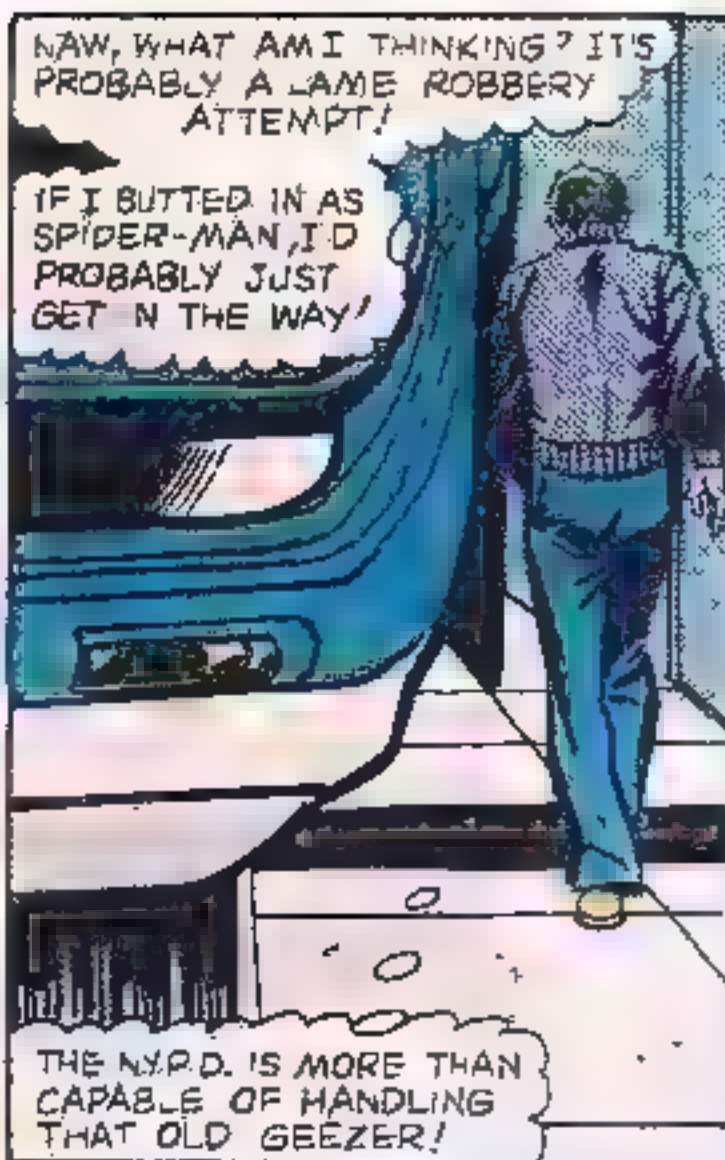
THANK HEAVEN FOR PUSH-BUTTON PHONES!

BEER





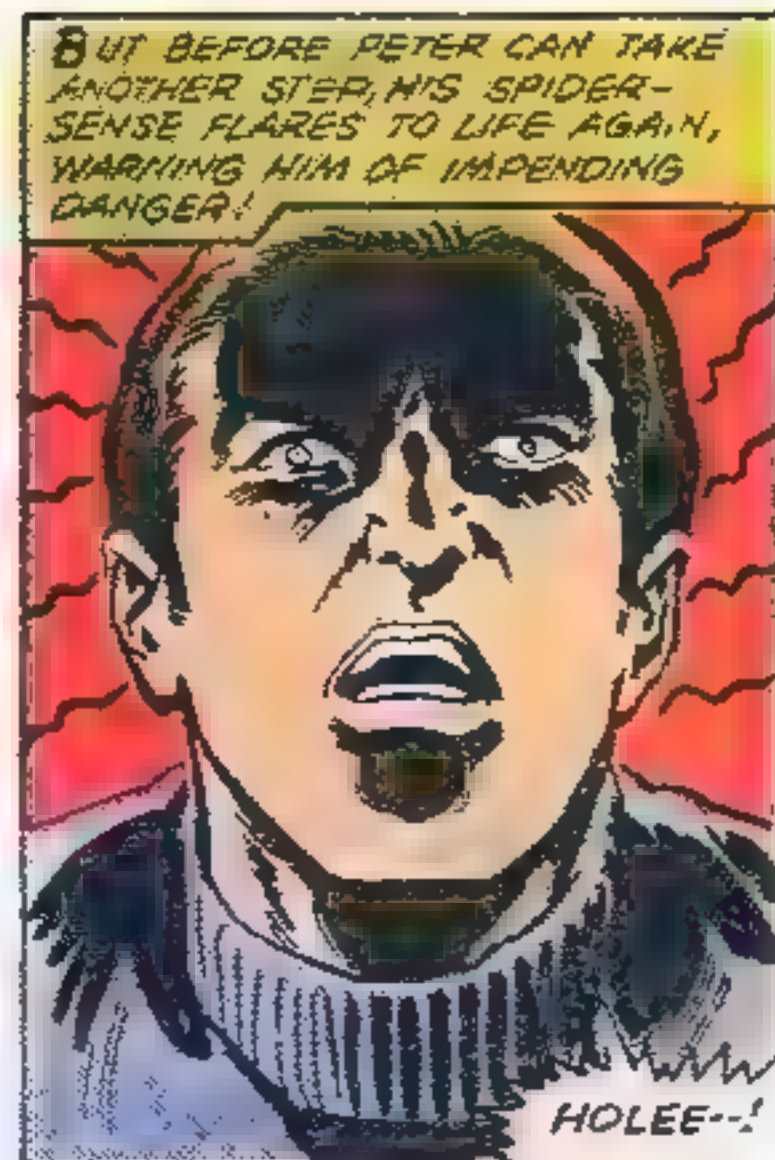
T-OS= TWO UNIFORM BOYS
ARE IN A BIG HURRY! I
WONDER IF I SHOULD
LEND A HAND?



NOW, WHAT AM I THINKING? IT'S
PROBABLY A LAME ROBBERY
ATTEMPT!

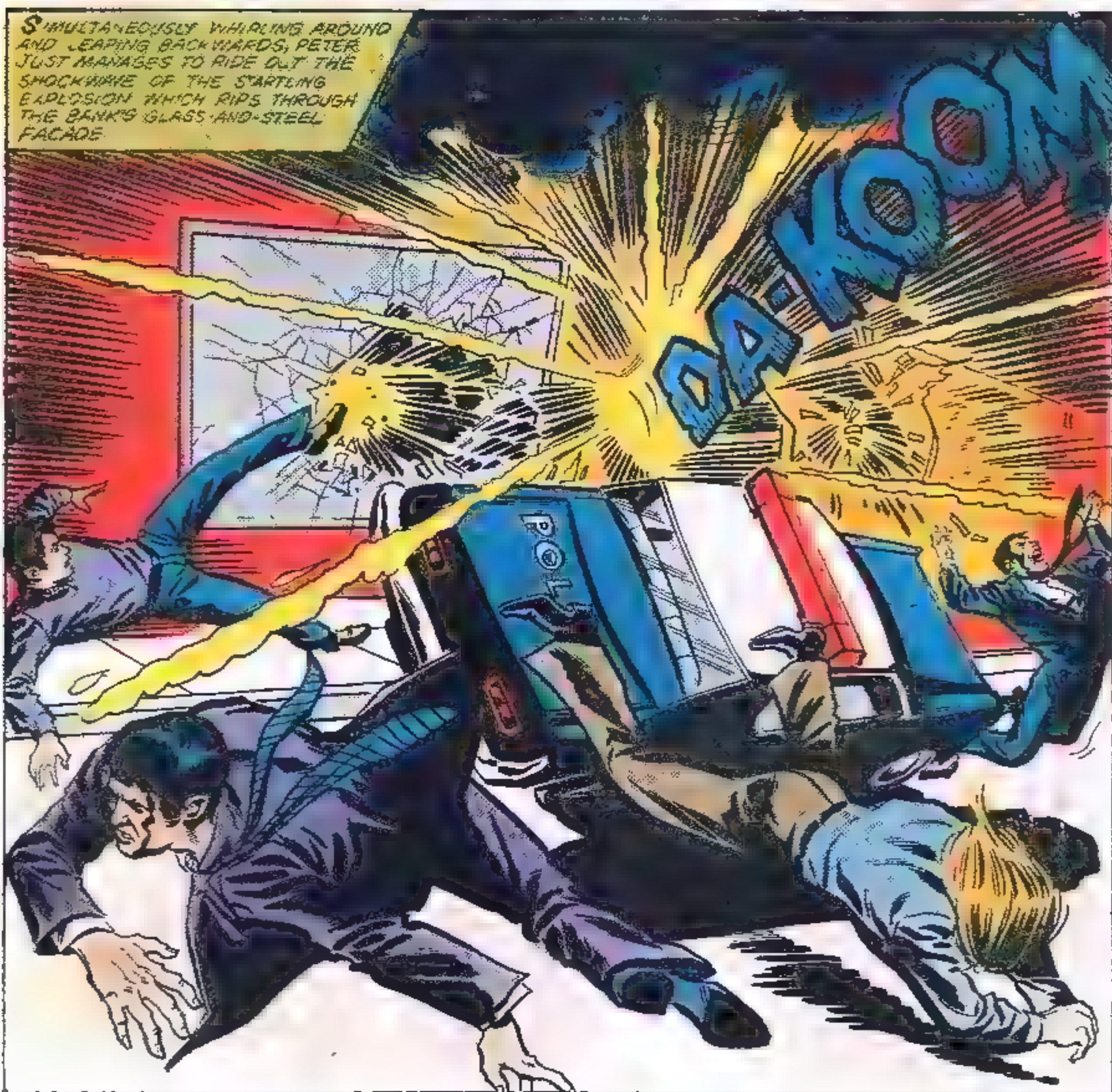
IF I BUTTED IN AS
SPIDER-MAN, I'D
PROBABLY JUST
GET IN THE WAY!

THE N.Y.P.D. IS MORE THAN
CAPABLE OF HANDLING
THAT OLD GEEZER!



BUT BEFORE PETER CAN TAKE
ANOTHER STEP, HIS SPIDER-
SENSE FLARES TO LIFE AGAIN,
WARNING HIM OF IMPENDING
DANGER!

HOLEE--!



SIMULTANEOUSLY WHIRLING AROUND
AND LEAPING BACKWARDS, PETER
JUST MANAGES TO RIDE OUT THE
SHOCKWAVE OF THE STARTLING
EXPLOSION WHICH RIPS THROUGH
THE BANK'S GLASS-AND-STEEL
FACADE.

ALIGHTNING WHIRLY ON HIS FEET, THE AGILE YOUTH SPINS AND SPRINTS OUT OF SIGHT, DOWN AN ADJACENT ALLEY

BRO-THER! THAT'LL TEACH ME NOT TO DOUBT MY SPIDER-SENSE!

IF ANYONE'S BEEN SERIOUSLY HURT

PARKER LETS THE THOUGHT TRAIL OFF. ONCE, YEARS BEFORE, HE FAILED TO ACT--AND AS A RESULT, HIS BELOVED UNCLE BEN WAS KILLED.

NOW AS HE CONCENTRATES ON REACHING THE ROOFTOPS, HE PRAYS THAT HIS IN-ACTION HAS NOT RESULTED IN MORE DEATHS

MEANWHILE IN THE RAVAGED BANK...

I DON'T KNOW WHY I DIDN'T DO THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE! NOW I HAVE ENOUGH CASH TO CHASE CAPTAIN MARVEL TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!

LUHHNN!

WHY, DADDY WHY? YOU WERE NEVER A THIEF BEFORE WHAT DO THEY DO TO YOU?

WHO? THE LUNATIC LEG-ON? THEY GAVE ME POWER! SHOWED ME WHAT IT COULD DO!

WHAM!

SOUNDS LIKE YOUR TEACHERS DIDN'T SHOW YOU ENOUGH, POPS!

OH!

I ASSUME FROM THE FANCY PURPLE SUIT, THAT YOU'RE THE BIG BAD WOLF THAT BLEW THE BANK DOWN! THAT BEING THE CASE, I'D SAY YOU PICKED THE WRONG BANK ON THE WRONG DAY!

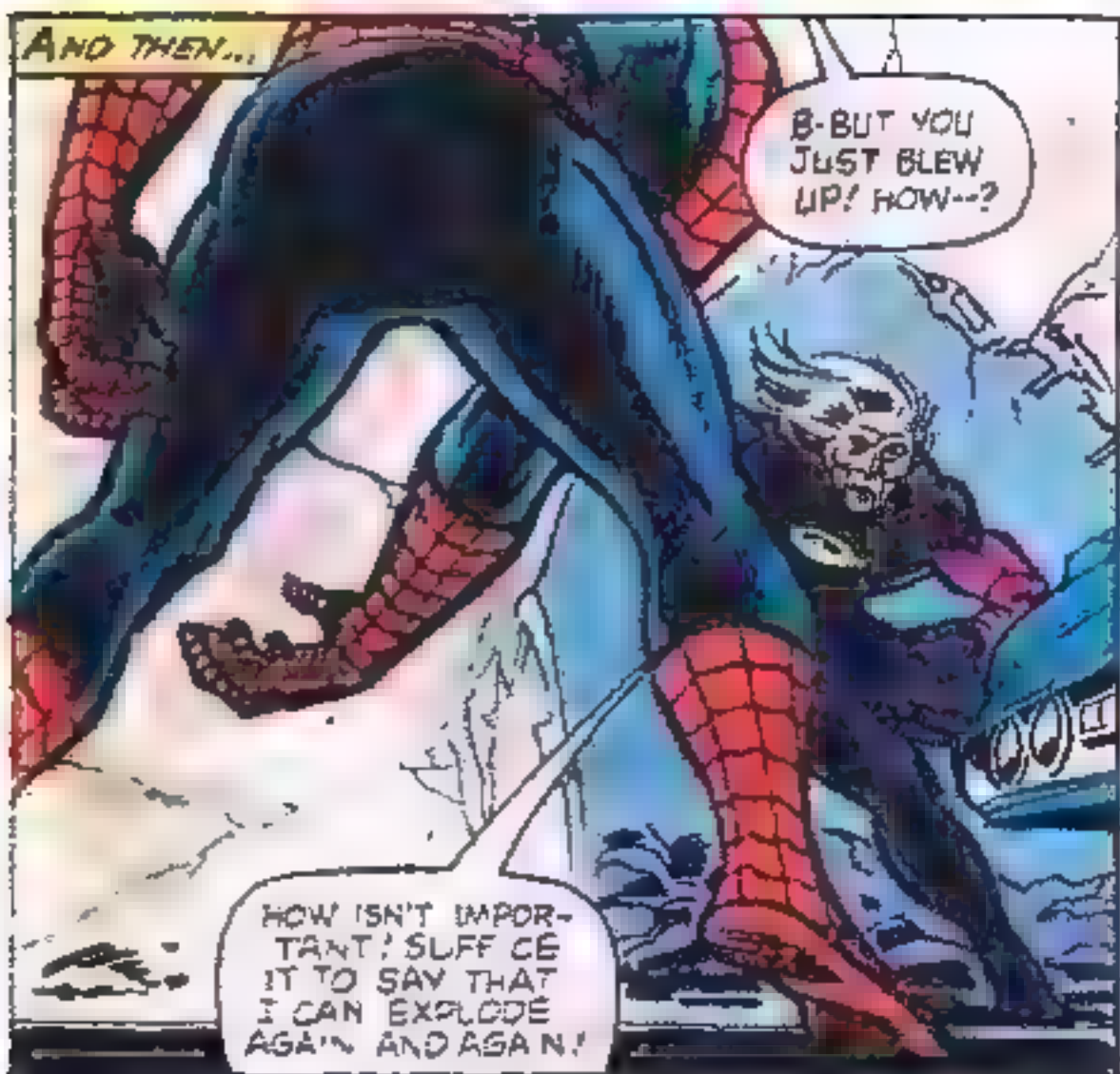
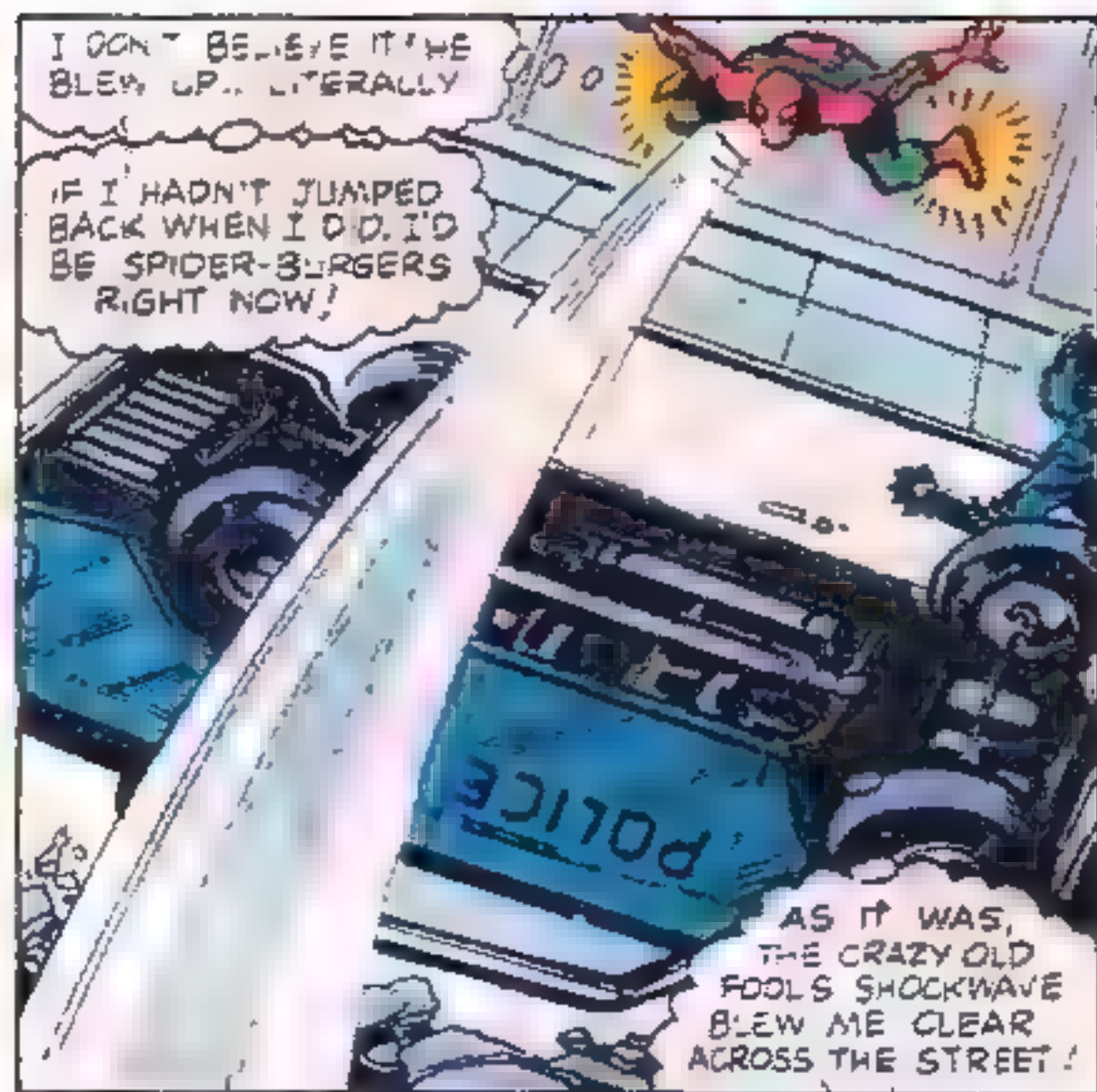
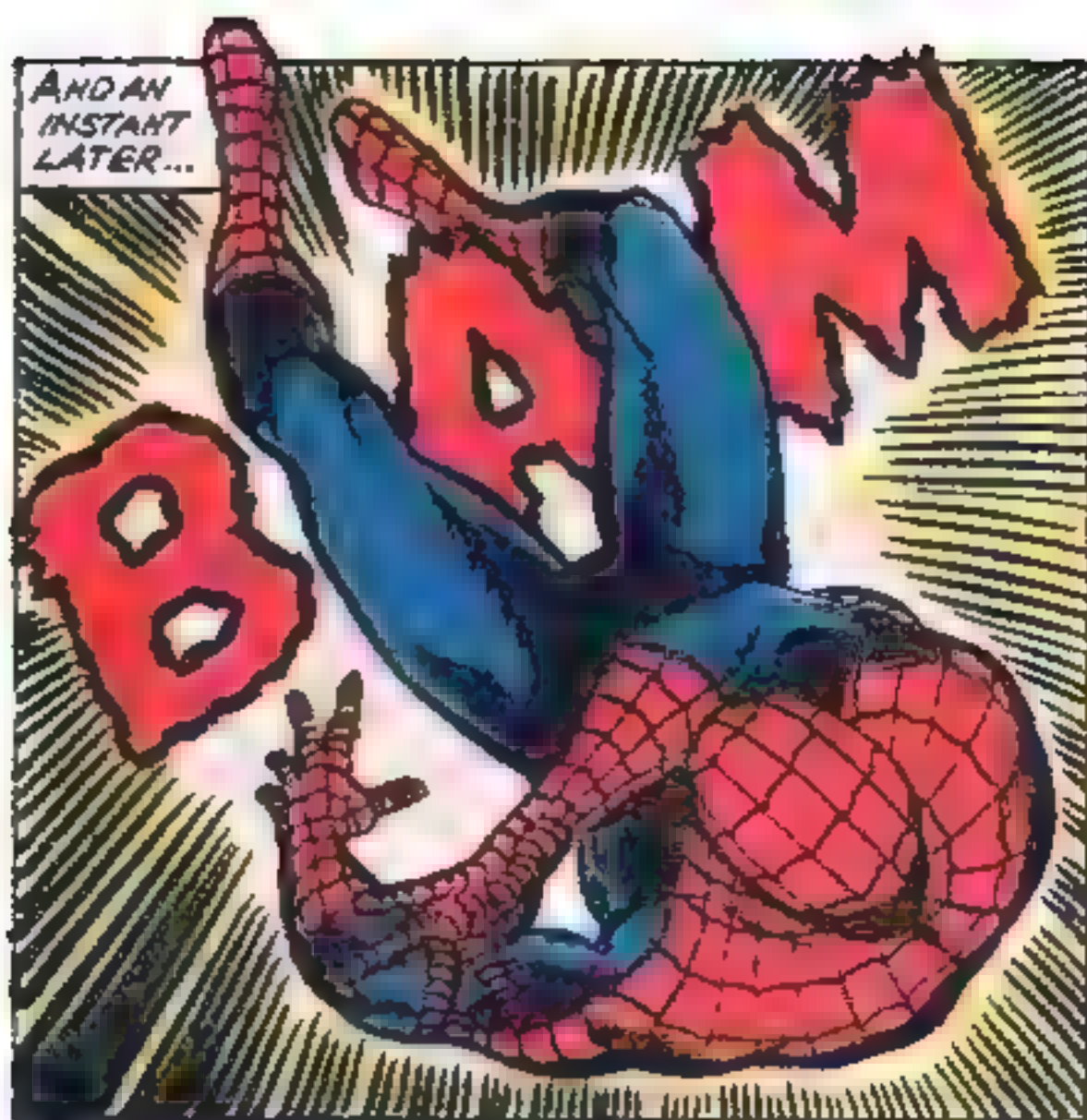
AH, BUT I SEE YOU'RE CONFUSED! DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME? THE NAME'S SPIDER-MAN--AND I KNOW A FEW THINGS ABOUT POWER MYSELF!

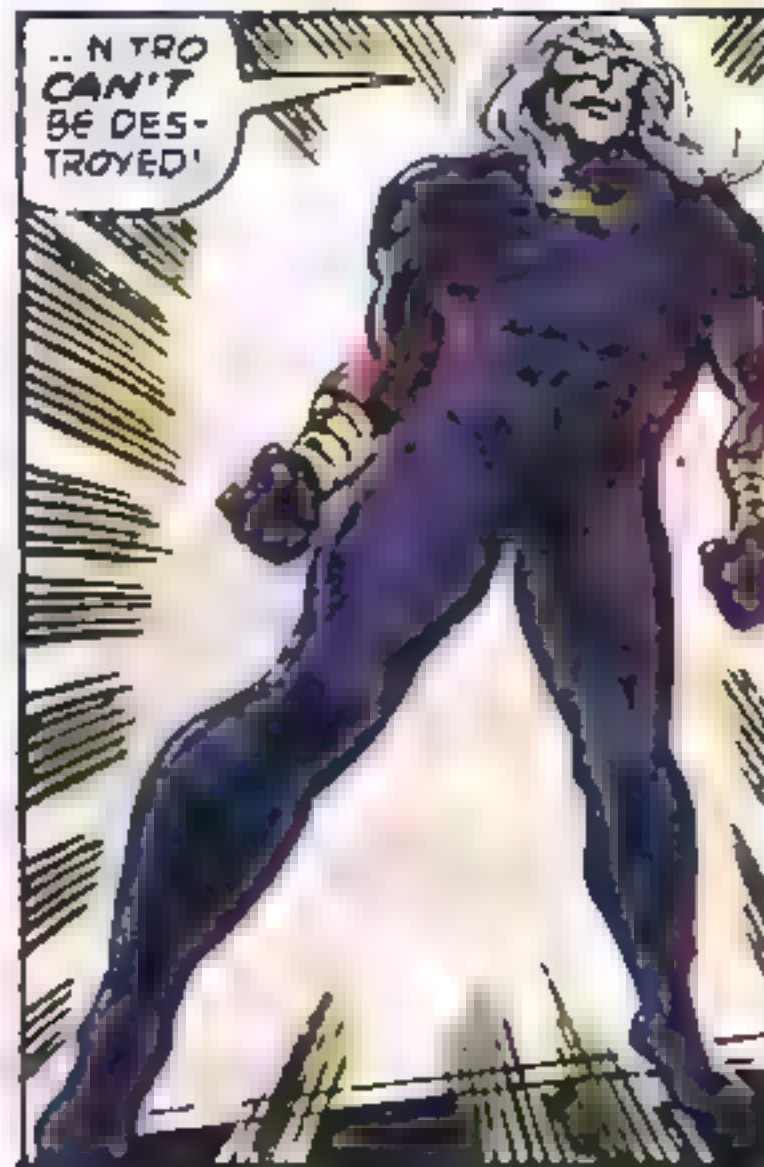
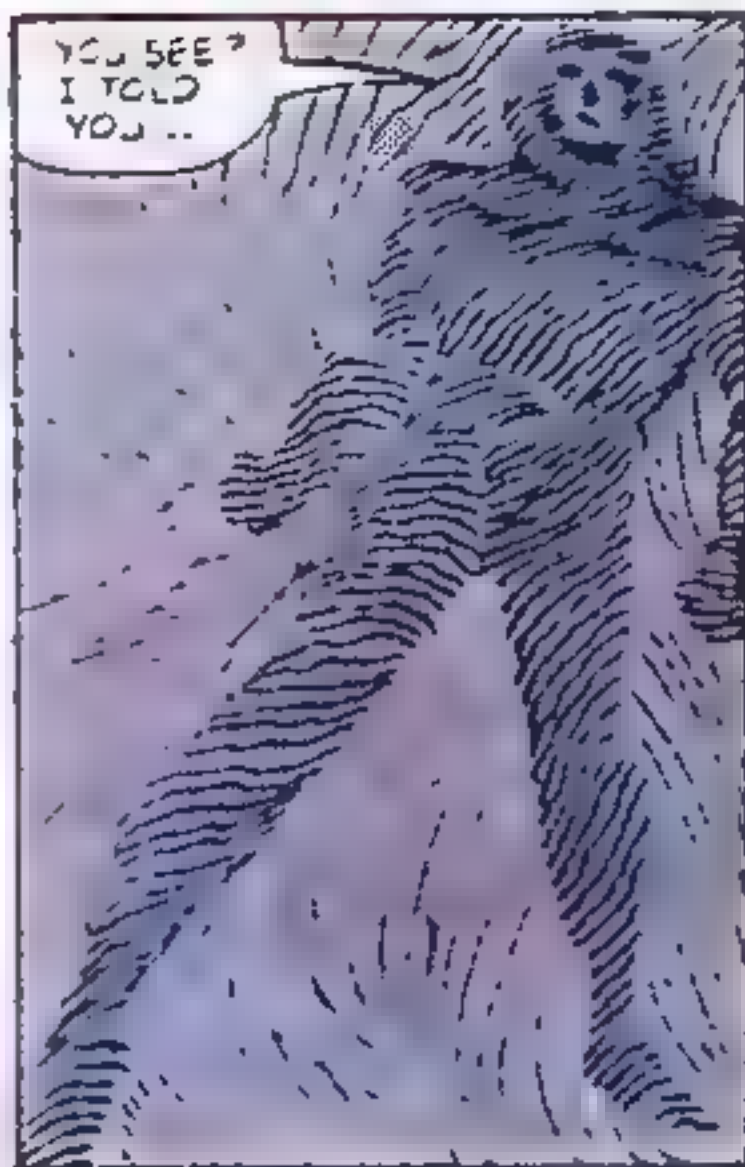
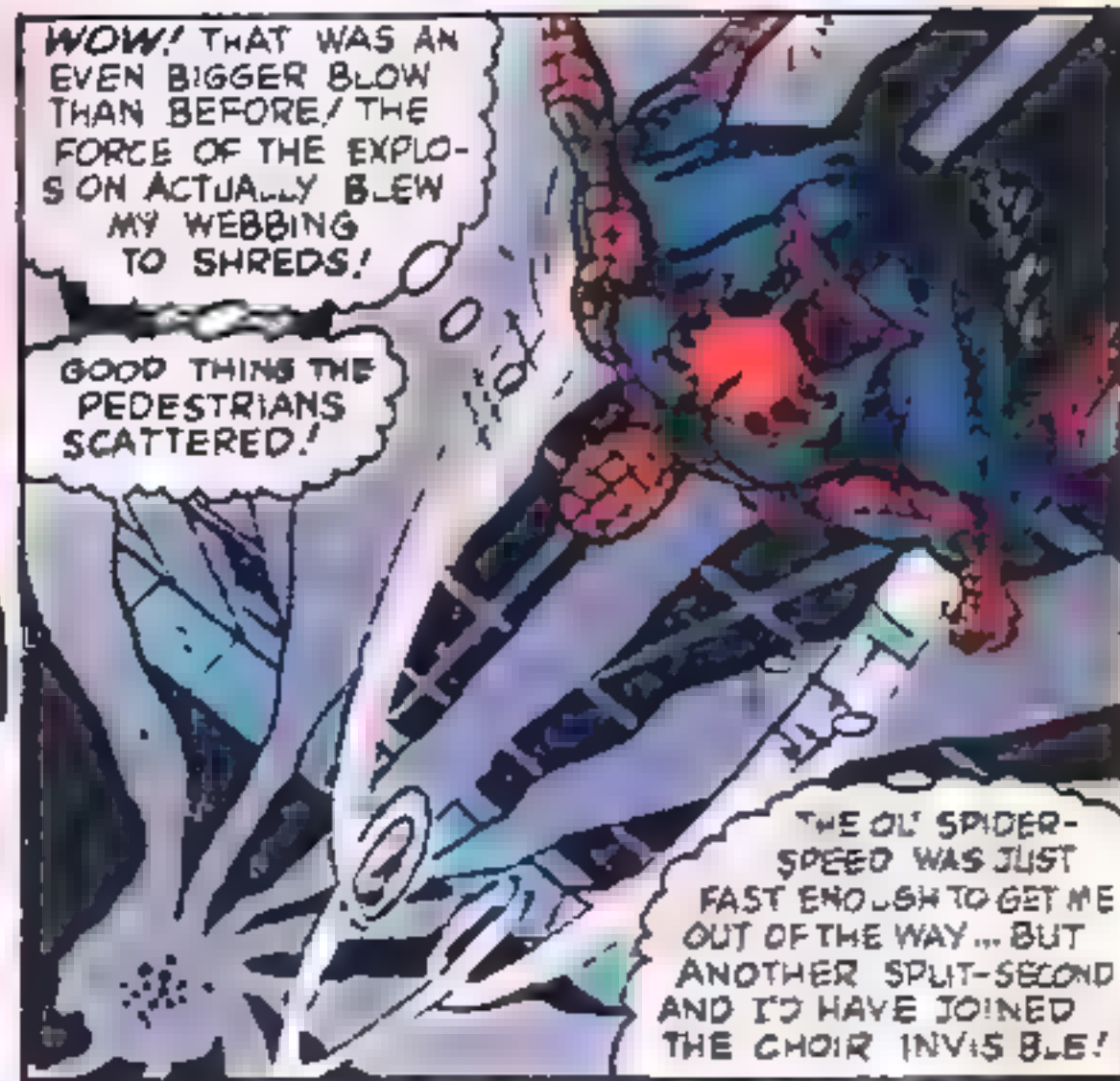
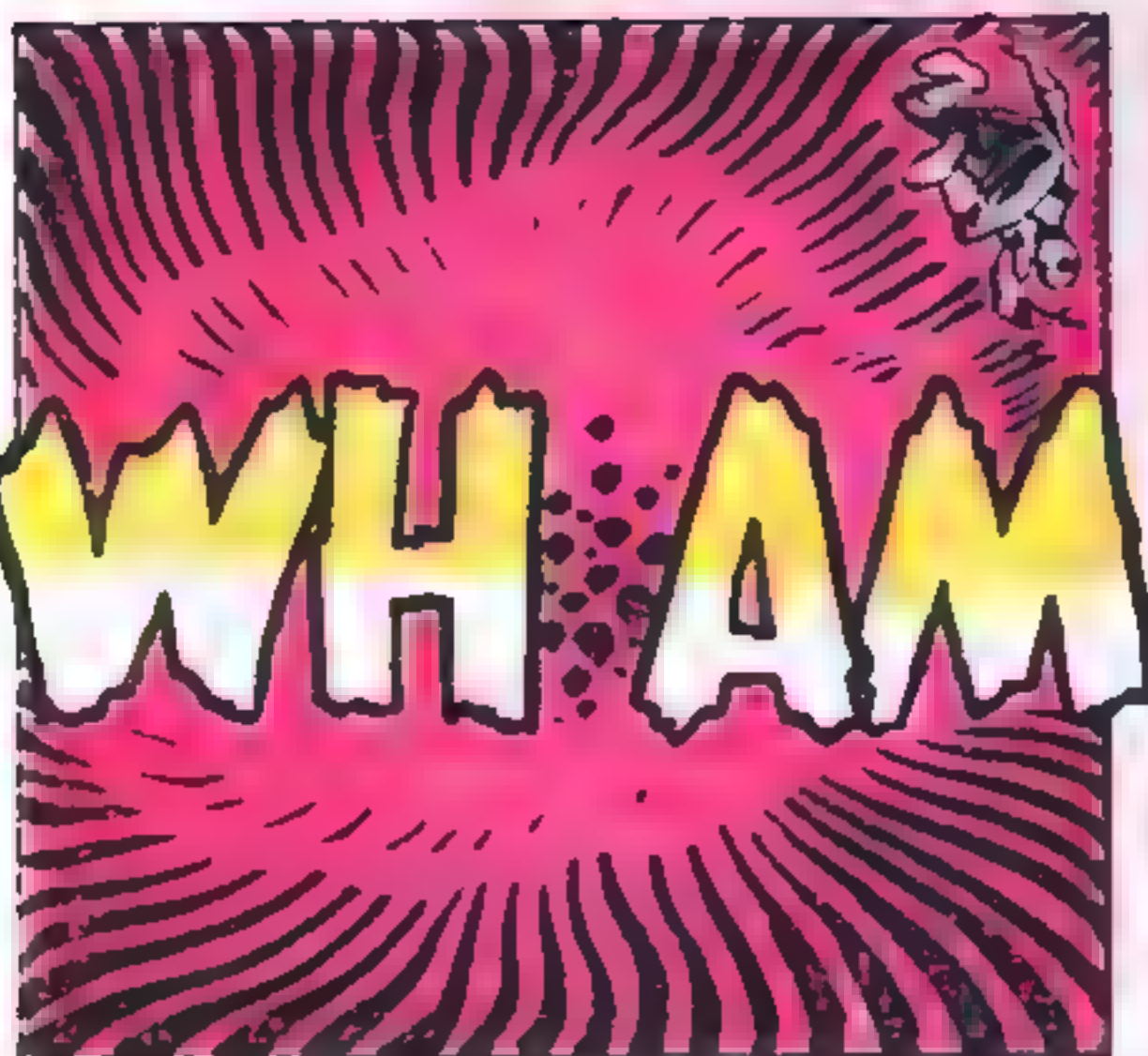
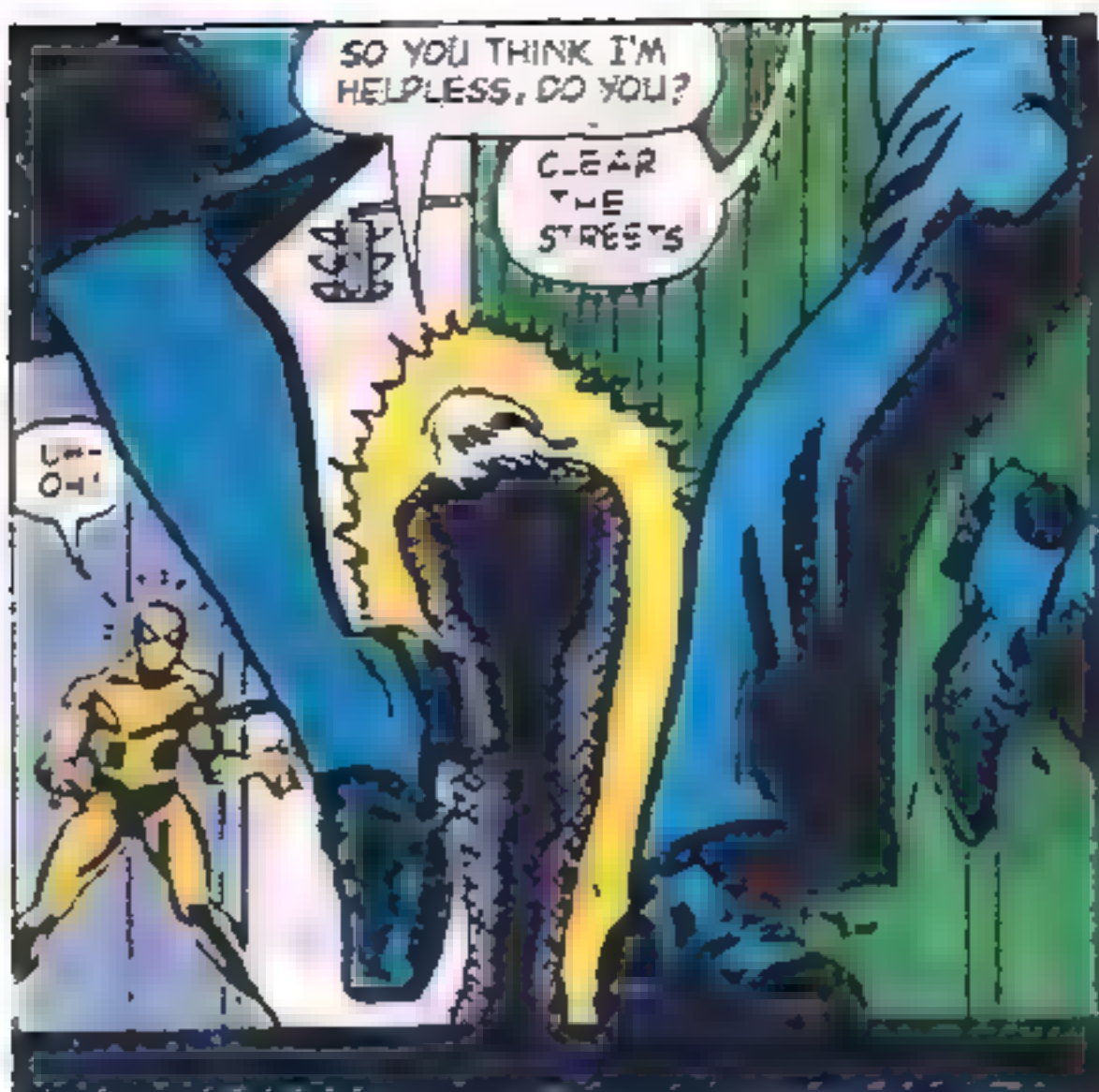
POWER REQUIRES AN EQUAL AMOUNT OF RESPONSIBILITY. LIKE THE MAN SAYS... YOU MUST BE HONEST TO LIVE OUTSIDE THE LAW!

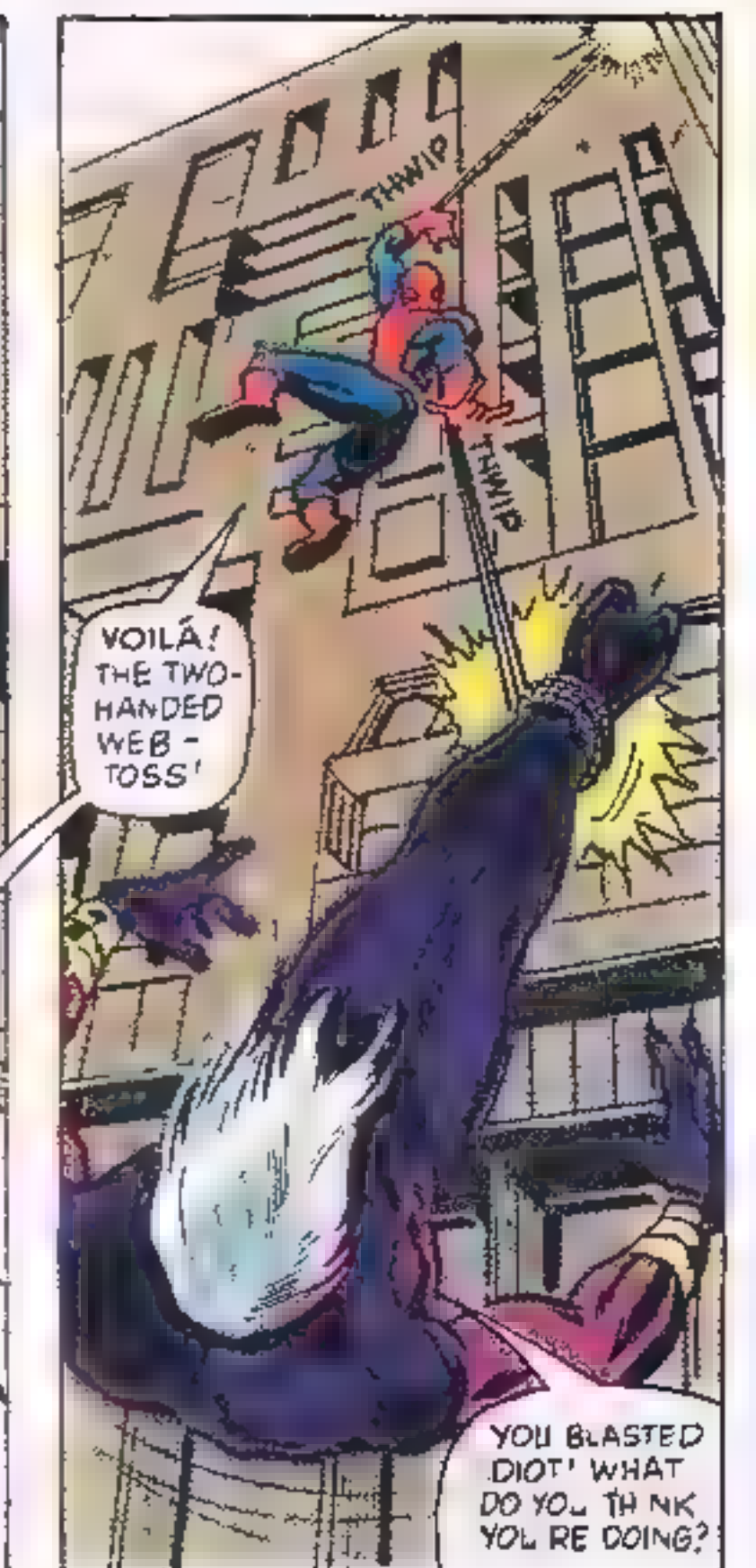
THAT'S REAL POETIC, CREEP! BUT ONLY POWER MATTERS TO NITRO!

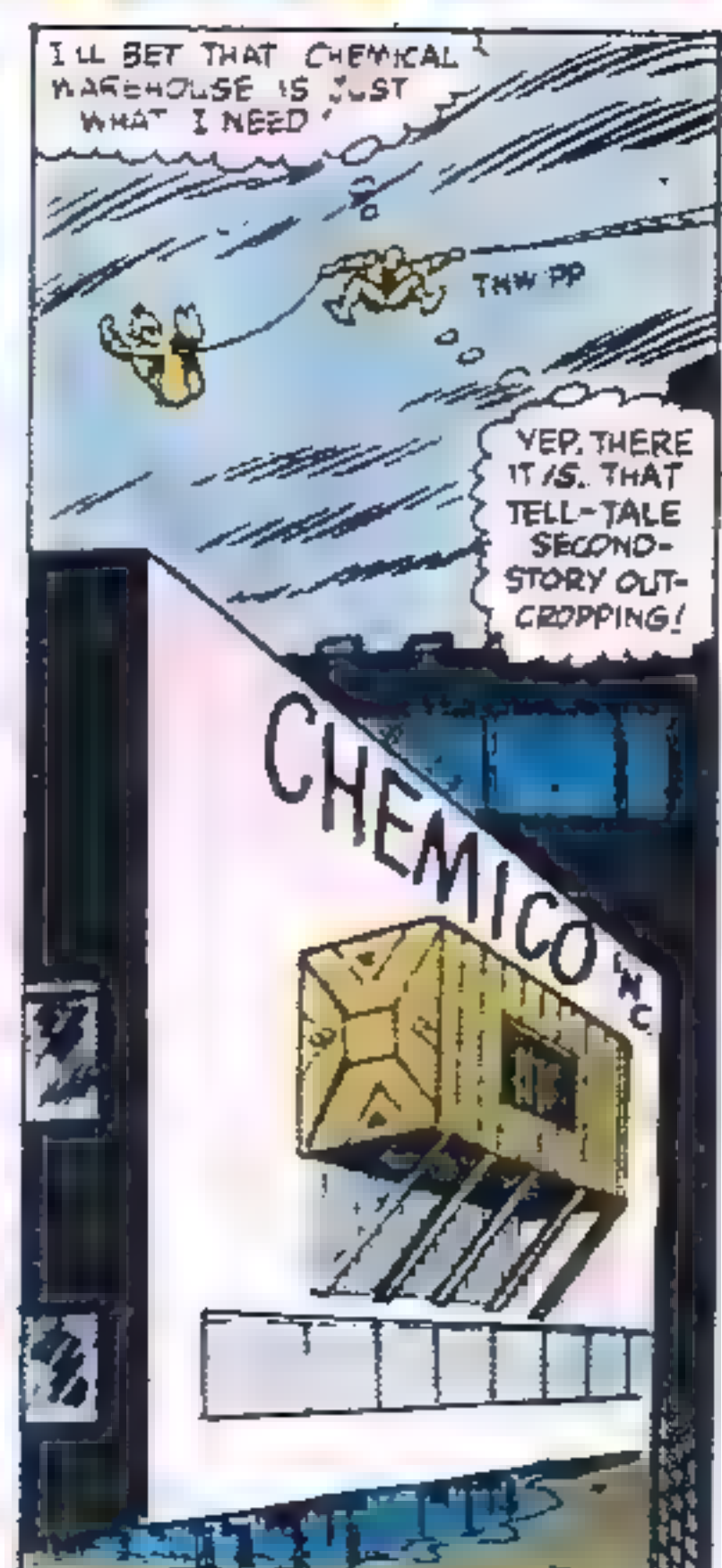
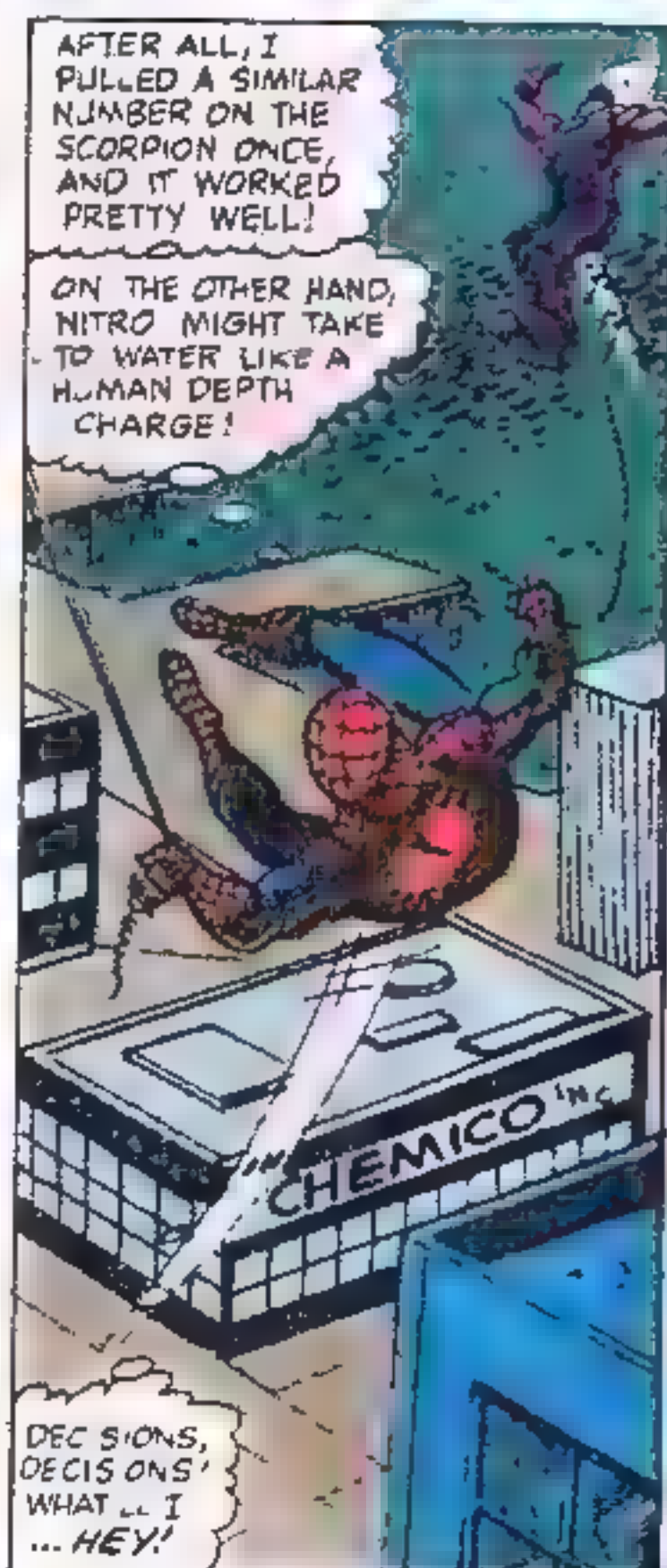
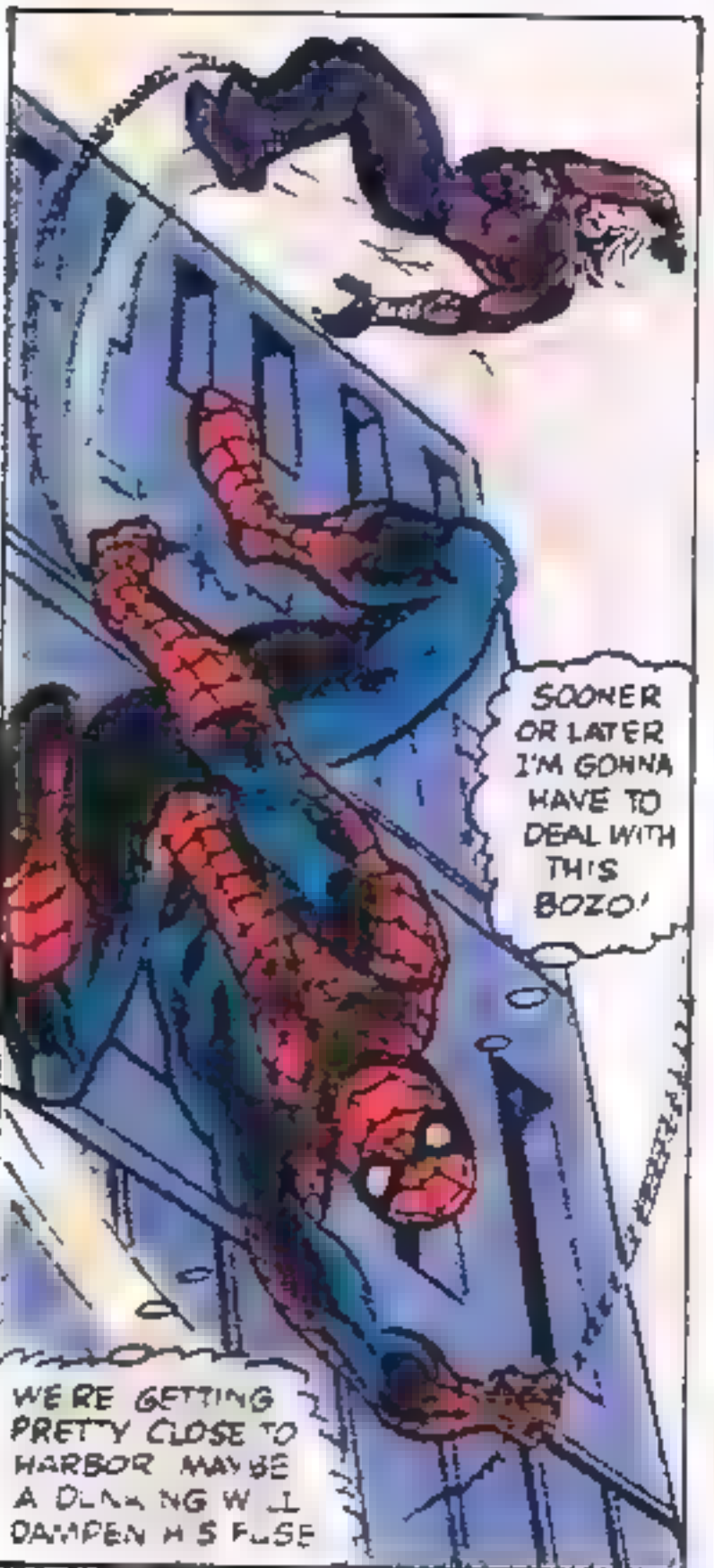
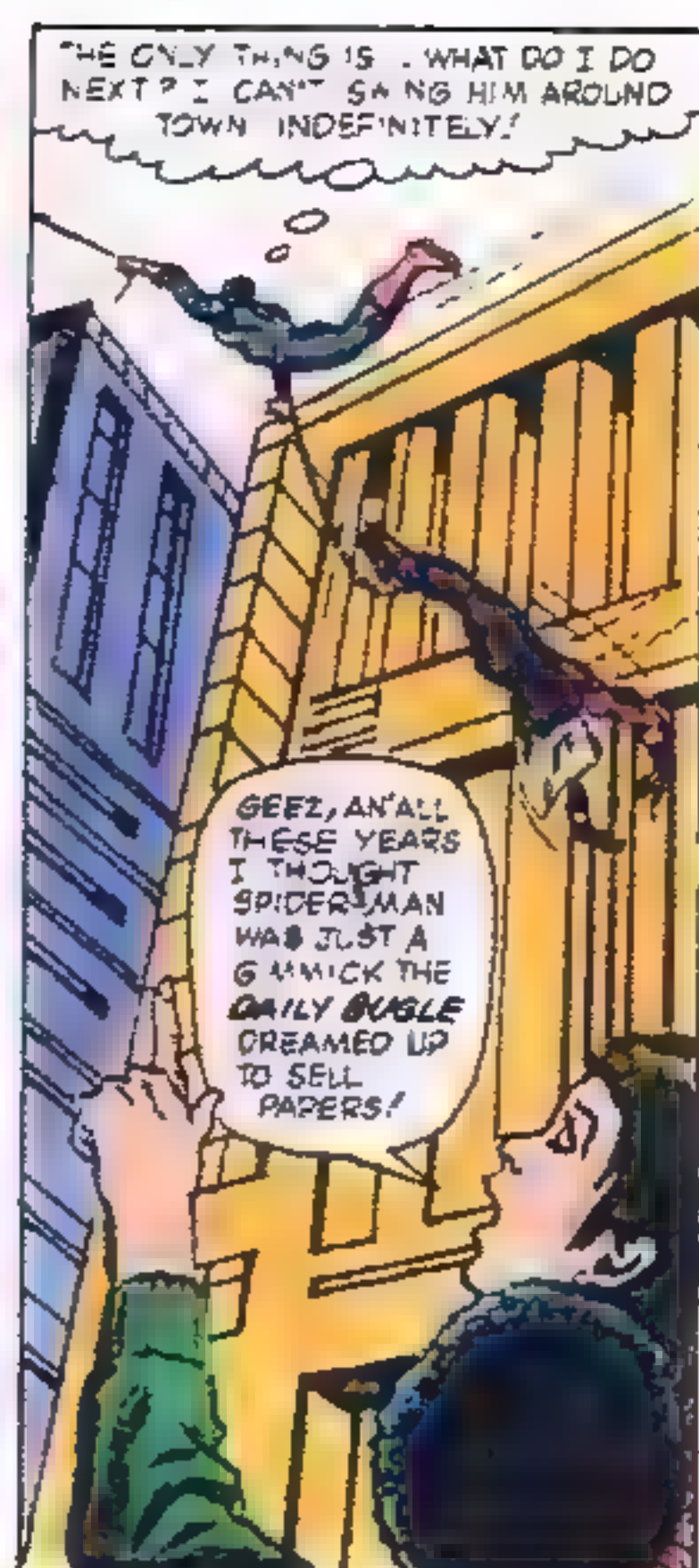
SNEESH! WHAT A CORNBALL! STILL HE'S GOT MY SPIDER-SENSE BZZZING AGAIN!

AND I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THAT GLOW HE'S GIVING OFF!









UNLESS MY CHEM
PROF WAS PUTTING
ME ON WHEN HE
GAVE ME HIS LEC-
TURE ON CHEMICAL
STORAGE PROCEDURES
THAT ADDED CHAM-
BER SHOULD HAVE
JUST WHAT I NEED
TO HANDLE GRANDPA
KA-BOOM!

AND AWAY
HE GOES!

HIGH, HIGH INTO
THE AIR STREAKS THE
SILVER-HAIRED
BEING, STRAIGHT
UP--

--AND THEN
STRAIGHT
DOWN!

YAAHH!

HI, THERE
CHUCKLES!

NOT TO WORRY!
I'LL MAKE SURE
YOU HAVE A NICE
SOFT SPOT TO
LAND!

FWUMP!
AH, BULLSEYE!

NOW I ASK
YOU, NITRO... DIDN'T
THAT RIDE BEAT CONEY
ISLAND ALL HOLLOW?

YOU MANIAC! I'M GONNA
BLOW MYSELF FREE,
AND THEN--!

I WOULDN'T DO THAT
IF I WERE YOU!
YOU'RE SITTING ON
A POWDER KEG...
SO TO SPEAK!

BUT NITRO ONLY GLOWS ALL THE BRIGHTER, AND THEN...

YEESH! I TRIED TO WARN HIM,
BUT HE WOULDN'T LISTEN! THAT
CHAMBER WAS FILLED WITH
REAL NITRO...

KROOON

...NITROGLYCERINE! CHEMICAL COMPANIES STORE
THEIR EXPLOSIVE STUFF IN CHAMBERS LIKE THAT... SO
ACCIDENTAL EXPLOSIONS WON'T DESTROY THE WHOLE BUILDING!

I-I GUESS
THAT'S THE END
OF NITRO!

BUT...

WHAT? AFTER THAT
INTENSE EXPLOSION
HE CAN STILL RE-
ASSEMBLE HIMSELF!

I FIGURED THAT HE'D
BE SCATTERED TO
THE WINDS. HOW DO
I STOP THIS GUY?

SPIDER-
MAN!

SHOW YOURSELF,
YOU COWARD!

UP HERE, OLD
TIMER! COME
AND GET ME!

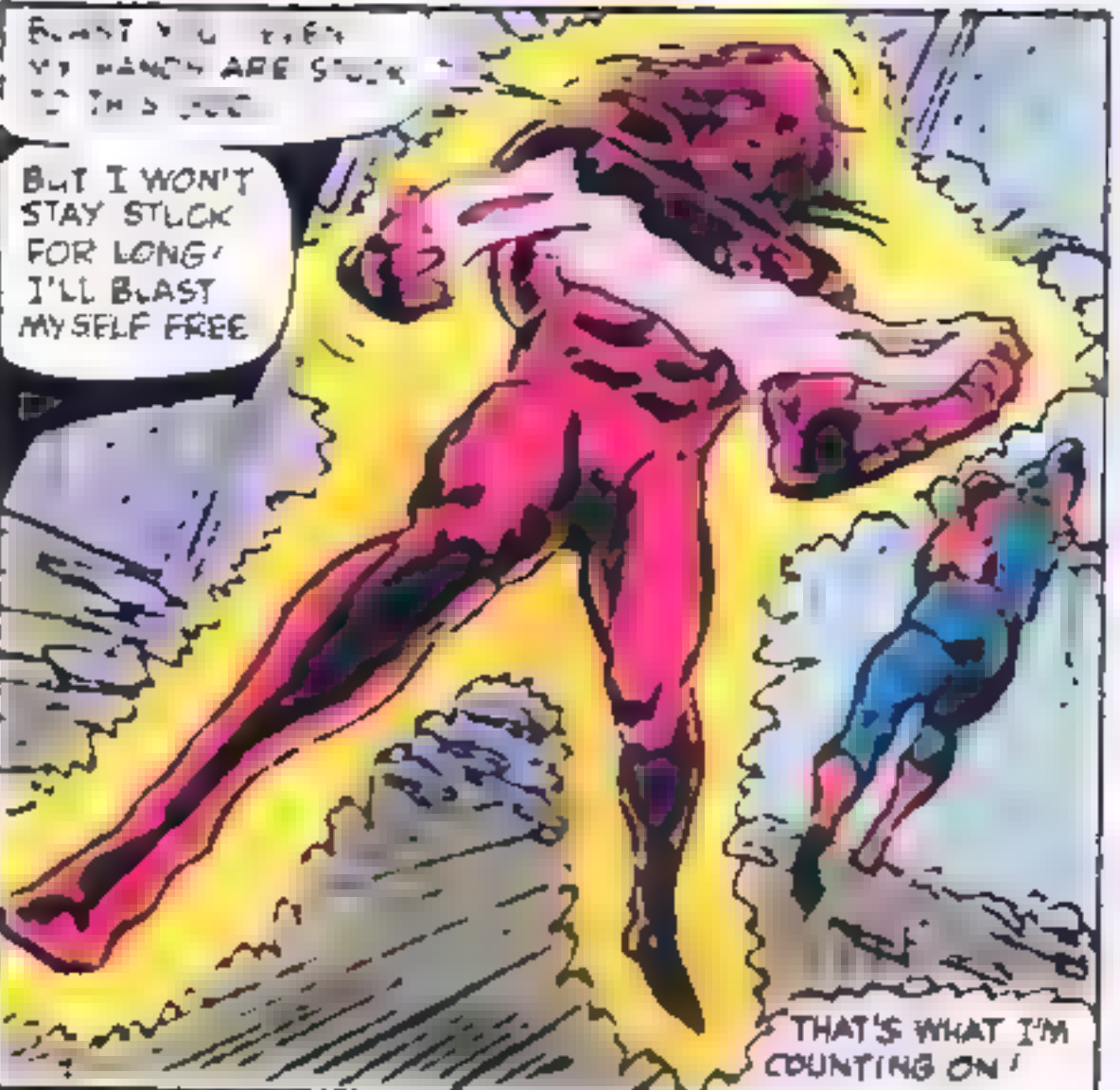
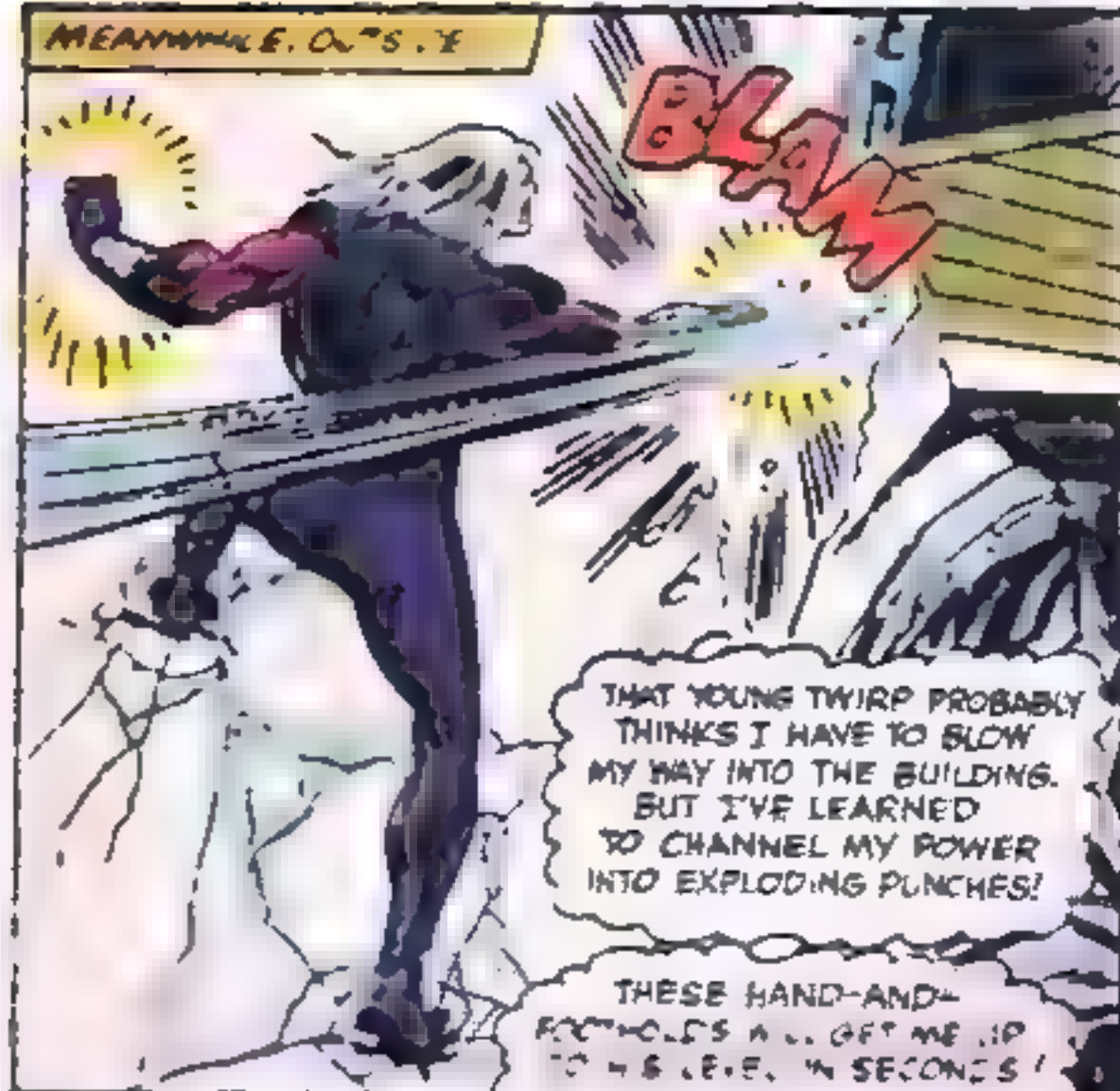
YEAH... PLEASE
COME AND BLOW
ME TO BITS!

WHAT'S
THIS?

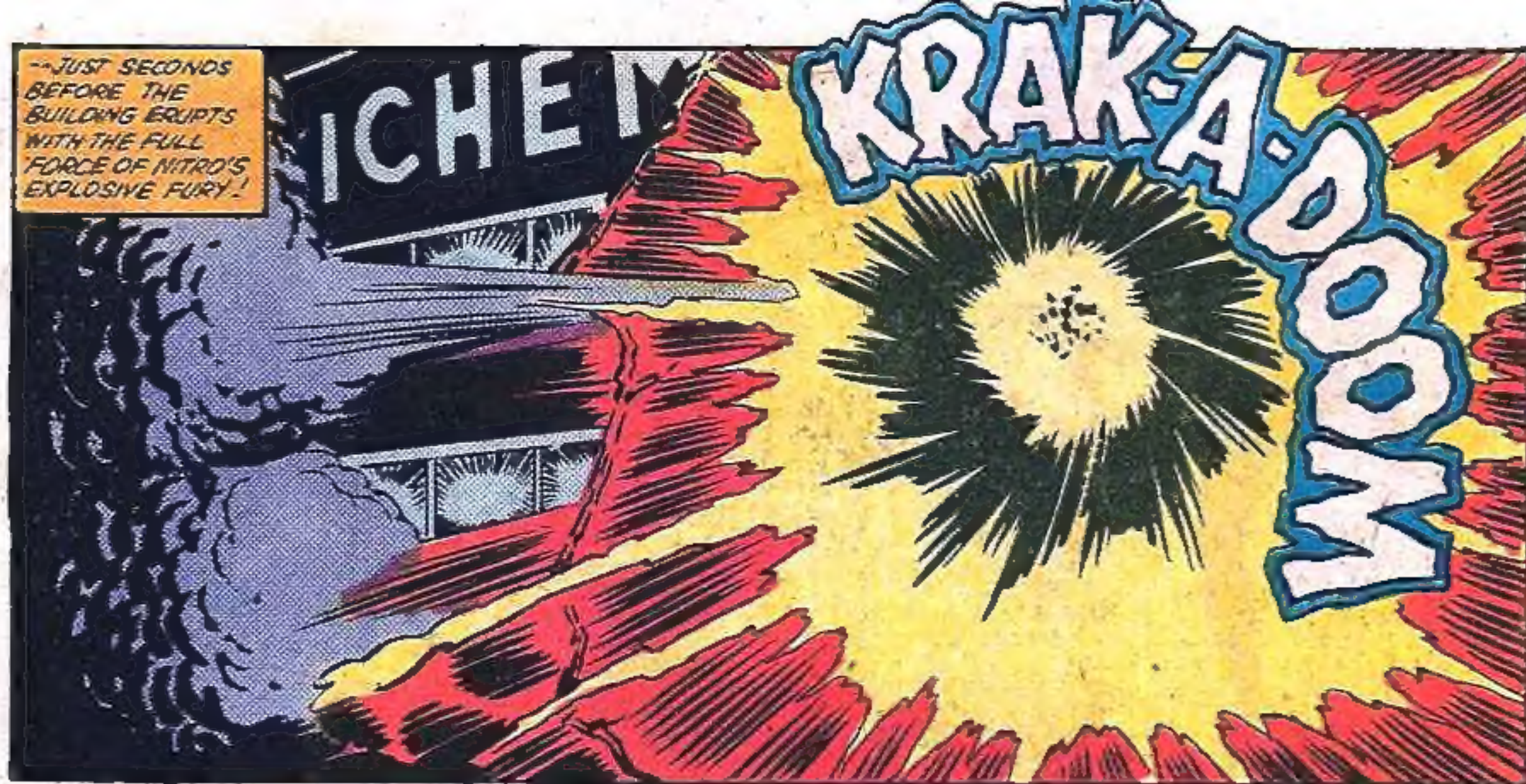
SAY, THERE MUST BE A GUARDIAN ANGEL
WHO WATCHES OVER FOOLS AND SPIDER-MEN

THINK FAST, PARKER!
YOU PROBABLY HAVE
ALL OF FIVE SECONDS
TO THINK OF A WAY
TO STOP A GUY WHO
CAN'T BE STOPPED!

HAVE I EVER
GOT AN IDEA!



--JUST SECONDS BEFORE THE BUILDING ERUPTS WITH THE FULL FORCE OF NITRO'S EXPLOSIVE FURY!



SCRATCH ONE WAREHOUSE!
I HOPE THE CHEMICO PEOPLE
HAVE A GOOD INSURANCE POLICY!



AND THEN, AFTER A FEW MINUTES OF PICKING THROUGH THE RUBBLE...

HEY, NITRO! YOU
GONNA STAY IN
ONE PIECE FOR
A WHILE?

UUUNH



W-WHAT...WHAT DID
YOU DO TO ME? I--
FEEL AWFUL! C-CAN'T
CONCENTRATE ENOUGH
TO 'SPLODE!

CAN'T...EVEN...
S-STAND!

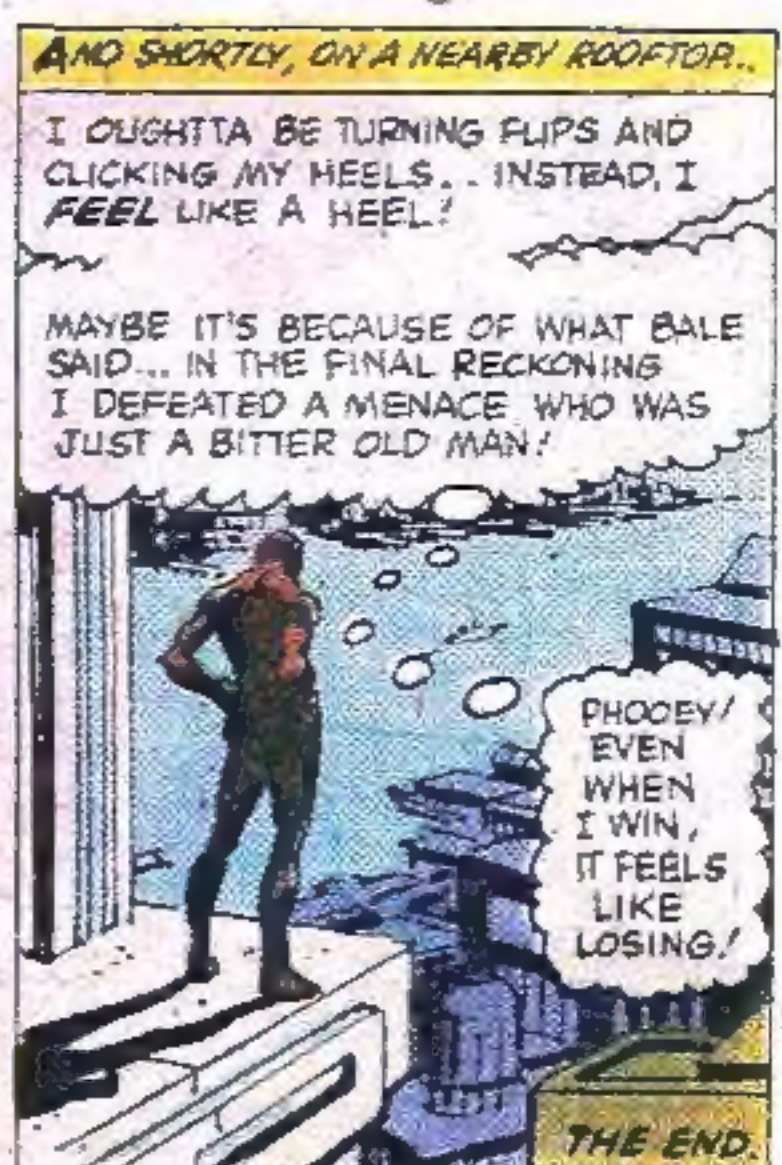
I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN EVEN
TALK! THAT CANISTER WAS
FULL OF NAUSEA GAS... YOU
KNOW, THE STUFF USED TO
BREAK UP RIOTS!

THE PARTICULAR BRAND
PRODUCED BY CHEMICO
HAPPENS TO COMBINE
WITH OTHER GASES
QUITE EASILY!

I FIGURED IT MIGHT
COMBINE WITH YOUR
VAPOR-FORM WHEN
YOU EXPLODED...
AND FROM THE
LOOKS OF THINGS,
I WAS RIGHT!

THAT NAUSEA GAS
IS NOW PART OF
YOU CHEMISTRY,
NITRO! I'M AFRAID
YOU'RE GOING TO
BE SICK FOR A-
LONG TIME!
I'M SORRY!





SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAIL

© MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

DENNIS O'NEIL
EDITOR
MARK GRUENWALD
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Roger,

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #51 was good, any way you look at it. The storyline was nice and compact, in that you fit it all into two issues, along with the WHITE TIGER mini-series. (I'll get to that later.)

I was very surprised to see the shy, timid Debra Whitman gather up enough courage to crack Mysterio's helmet. I didn't think she had it in her. I anxiously await further developments in the Debra Whitman situation over the next few months.

I really liked the way Spider-Man gained control of Mysterio's illusions and traps. For once, Spidey had the upper hand, instead of the villain.

I noticed something at the end of the WHITE TIGER story. It said, "The Final Fate of the Tiger!" Does this mean he's going to be killed off? It sounds like it. Also, at the end, it said the next issue's story would be "The Hero Killers!" and the end of the SPIDER-MAN story said the same thing.

Let me guess... next issue there's going to be one big story, featuring Mace, his army, Spider-Man, the Tiger (if he lives), and maybe another hero. Then, you'll eliminate the WHITE TIGER series and go back to book-length stories. Whatever the case, PPTSS #52 should be a good one!

Mark Nemetz
45 Laurel Avenue
Clifton, NJ 07012

Dear Spider-people,

The cover of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #51 is an excellent addition to the gallery of artistic milestones which Frank Miller has been turning out lately. Keep him on the covers — and an occasional inside story — and I'll be one happy guy.

The writing on this book has taken great strides forward lately. Roger Stern is the consummate Marvel writer, and other bullpen scribblers would do well to study what the man has done for SPIDER-MAN and CAPTAIN AMERICA. Rog always manages to bring back the villains I want to see, and he's a master at character development and definition. Here, Spider-Man gets a chance to use his brain, as well as his powers. This is our Peter Parker. And Deb Whitman is one of the best new Marvel characters to come along in years. She's sort of what Peter Parker was like in the old days, when Stan wrote the book... shy, endearing, and resourceful. (Of course, the shtick of Peter standing her up is becoming a little stale... and it was avoided this issue only because she was kidnapped. But, I have faith that Rog'll straighten this out soon.)

Marie Severin! I'm speechless. When that lady puts pencil to paper, she reestablishes herself as one of the finest artists in comics. She's a demon when it comes to storytelling, and she never fails to have Pete doing something spidery. This was never demonstrated so well as in the sequence with the holographic images of Spider-Man in constantly differing stages of motion.

Jim Mooney is one of the best Spider-inkers... that really should go without saying. Also, Jim Novak stands alongside Joe Rosen and Tom Orzechowski as one of comics' best calligraphers. Christie Scheele's coloring was real decent, as well.

All in all, a very nice package, people. Keep up the good work.

Vance Borden
Ansonia, CT 06401

Dear Marvel,

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #51 had a fantastic cover, but it had nothing to do with the story. It would have been nice to see Spider-Man battling Mysterio on the set of a science fiction film, but it didn't happen. (By the way, who drew the cover?)

The story this issue was enjoyable, though. I particularly liked the scenes in which Spider-Man used illusions against Mysterio — it's about time he got a taste of his own medicine — and Deb Whitman struck out at Mysterio (nice to see her showing a little gumption). Oh, and the scene of the supposed alien listening to the radio and drinking beer was a nice comic touch.

The art was good, too — but I don't think Jim Mooney's inks go that well with Marie's pencils.

Barry Dutter
2283 Old Farm Road
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

Actually, Barry, the cover wasn't meant to show an actual scene from the story, just to portray a symbolic overview of the issue... Debra Whitman threatened, as Spider-Man defeats Mysterio in the midst of special effects illusions. Vance Borden correctly recognized Frank Miller as the cover penciler. Inks were laid down by Josef Rubinstein.



Dear Roger,

The cover to SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #51 was fantastic! Who but Spider-Man could both pin the bad guy's arms and hit him at the same time? That's a great concept, to show Spider-Man's prowess in both the brawn and agility departments.

By the way, Mr. Stern, the best touch in this fine story has to be page 16. There, in panel 2, Spider-Man thinks, "These computerized control systems are complicated, but I think I have them programmed pretty much the way I want..." Just three panels later, Mysterio thinks, "He has to stay in the control room... unless he's pre-programmed the computer systems! And only a scientific wizard could do that!"

I'm interested in next issue's "Hero Killers." But I'm not so sure I could say that I'm looking forward to it...

Rick S. Jones
Cederville College
Cederville, OH 45314

Well, Rick, what can I say but... I'm both interested in and looking forward to your reactions — positive or negative — to SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #52, Rick.

And that goes for everyone out there! I personally read each and every letter sent to PPTSS. Your letters of comment are the only way I can get a handle on what you like and what you want to see in these pages. It may sound a bit hackneyed, but you fine folks are the ultimate editors on this book. Just tell me what you want, okay?

Dear Roger,

I've stuck with PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN since its inception. There have been good stories and bad ones, but I truly believe that with issue #51 the title has really proven itself. Until now, this has always been the second Spider-Man mag, but you have finally hit the top of the ladder, equalling the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.

The appearance of Mysterio was great. You need more such top-notch villains to produce a really great comic. (Speaking of top-notch, bring back Mary Jane Watson!)

I loved the story this issue, but — good as she is — I don't think that Marie Severin is exactly right for SPIDER-MAN. How about getting John Byrne?

Mark Waldman
9639 Aringo Avenue
Northridge, CA 91324

John's on his way, Mark. He'll be here with issue #58!

—Roger Stern

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

- ☐ MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #76 — Giant-Man and the Iceman join the ever-lovin' blue-eyed Thing!
- ☐ SPIDER-WOMAN #38 — Guest-starring the uncanny X-Men!
- ☐ STAR TREK #14 — "We Are Dying, Egypt, Dying!"
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #171 — DD vs. the Kingpin!
- ☐ MARVEL SUPER HEROES #98 — (Reprints Hulk #149) — "The Enhancer from Beyond!"
- ☐ DAZZLER #4 — Final battle with Dr. Doom! Plus: Nightmares!
- ☐ KA-ZAR #3 — The fear-fraught fate of Shanna!
- ☐ KING CONAN #6 — Conan's quest for his kidnapped queen!
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #217 — Sand-Man and Hydro-Man team up and attack!
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #258 — Who is...Blockbuster?

- ☐ THOR #308 — Loki and Kamilla attack New York!
- ☐ MICRONAUTS #30 — "To Save Homeworld!"
- ☐ GHOST RIDER #57 — Enter: The Apparition!
- ☐ SAVAGE SHE-HULK #17 — "Make Way for...the Man-Elephant!"
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #8 — Moon Knight goes mad!
- ☐ DR. STRANGE #47 — Dr. Strange — powerless against Ikonn, the master of illusion!
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #260 — Show-down in Japan with Glenn Talbot!
- ☐ AVENGERS #208 — The mad menace of the eternal warrior called the Berserker!
- ☐ CONAN #123 — "Horror Beneath the Hills!"
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #128 — (Reprints Spider-Man #151) — The shocking return of a suprise super-villain!
- ☐ X-MEN #146 — The old and new X-Men at the mercy of Dr. Doom! Plus: Arcade!

- ☐ ROM #19 — ROM is trapped in Limbo — with all his old foes!
- ☐ POWER MAN/IRON FIST #70 — Cage and the Fist hot on the trail of drug smugglers!
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #231 — Stygiaz blasts the Baxter Building into the Negative Zone!
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #106 — Spidey and Captain America!
- ☐ IRON MAN #147 — A crisis called...Blacklash!
- ☒ PETER PARKER #55 — The menace of Nitro, the Exploding Man!
- ☐ DEFENDERS #96 — The Defenders and Ghost Rider at the mercy of the Six-Fingered Hand!
- ☐ MARVEL SUPER ACTION #32 — (Reprints Avengers #71) The Avengers and the Black Knight vs. The Grand-Master and Kang!
- ☐ STAR WARS #48 — Leia and Vader play a strange game of power, propaganda... and Death!
- ☐ MASTER OF KUNG FU #101 — "Not Smoke. Nor Beads. Nor Blood!"

- ☐ MARVEL PREMIERE #68 — Featuring... Dr. Who! Cover painting by Paul Gulacy.
- ☐ SGT. FURY #184 — (Reprints Sgt. Fury #70) — Meet: the Missouri Marauders!
- ☐ WHAT IF #27 — "What if Phoenix Had Lived?"

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ CRAZY #74 — "Crazy Cars of the Future", "Finger vs. Finger", "The Elephant Man", a "Dallas" parody, Kinetic Kids, Obnoxio, Howard the Duck, and more, Whew!
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #84 — The terrible secret of the "Children of Rhan!"
- ☐ MARVEL PREVIEW #26 — King Kull stars in Doug Moench and John Bolton's "Demon in a Silvered Glass", featuring some of the finest artwork to ever grace a Marvel production. And the writing ain't nothin' to sneeze at, either!

BEASTCHARMING

Perennially purveying a plenitude of purty, prettified pictures to my peerless pals!

HUMBLE
CONTRIBUTOR TO
#THECOMICRACK

Queries? Requests? Contact me at
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